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Iran-Iraq Conflict

A UN spokesman announced that former Swiss President Kurt Furgler will succeed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as mediator in the Geneva peace talks, INA reported. Furgler will take over from Perez de Cuellar after the first round of negotiations, INA added.

Iranian reports did not name Furgler as Perez de Cuellar's replacement but cited a UN spokesman as saying the replacement would be a "political heavyweight enjoying international credibility" with an "impartial reputation," according to IRNA.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived late for the second meeting 26 August for reasons "not immediately known," IRNA noted.

Discussions in the first meeting centered on previous agreements between the two sides and accorded "special priority" to establishing a timetable for troop withdrawal to international borders, Tehran radio disclosed.

The sides are meeting at a triangular shaped negotiating table, with the Iraqis on the right, the Iranians on the left, and the UN team at the base, IRNA and INA noted.

The UN secretary general said the talks were "good" and the sides are "working seriously," INA reported. After a 2-hour joint session, the delegations retired to separate rooms to continue "mutual consultations" with UN negotiators, IRNA and INA reported. A UN spokesman said the "temporary halt" should not be "interpreted as a negative sign," IRNA added.

Prior to the first round of talks, Perez de Cuellar met separately with Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Velayati, INA and IRNA reported. The talks with Velayati went over their scheduled time because of "obstacles created by 'Aziz" during his meeting, IRNA contended.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called the recent border problems with Iraq "foolish" and said such "acts of disruption" would continue if Iraq feels Iran has become "complacent," according to Tehran radio.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said Iran seeks "links with the world" but based on Islamic "values and principles" which include continuing support for Islamic "liberating movements" and fighting the "arrogance" of "blasphemous and Godless systems," the radio reported.

A representative of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front told UN observers it could not "ensure their safety" in Kurdistan and announced their determination to continue the "war against Baghdad," Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

Lebanon

Israeli helicopters fired six air-to-surface rockets at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and Israeli gunboats attacked that camp and the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, according to "security force sources" cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. A PFLP-GC and a Fatah-the Central Command position were destroyed in the raid, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

Three Palestinians were wounded, Voice of Lebanon radio added. Israeli convoys were observed to advance toward Mazra'at al-Hamra' and have surrounded Yuhmur, Beirut radio reported.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said the current "stalemate" over the presidential election is "very delicate and even dangerous," Voice of Lebanon radio indicated.

Interior Minister 'Abdallah Rasi accused the United States of "direct intervention" in the election, according to KUNA. Rasi said a "ranking American diplomat" had telephoned several deputies asking them to boycott the electoral session.

He accused Israel of "indirect involvement" in "sabotaging" the elections through the "rightwing Lebanese Forces." Rasi urged Washington and Damascus to "reach an understanding" on the elections and said a "brave and determined" president is required to settle the conflict by "dissolving" the "militia forces plaguing the country."

Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt met in Damascus with a Syrian party official to discuss the "obstruction" of the electoral process, Damascus radio reported.

The sides "condemned" the United States for its "impudent interference" in the election, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio disclosed. An "Arab diplomatic source" said Syrian sources "leaked" reports of a "conflict" with the United States over the election to "shore up its position in the Arab arena," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met the head of Lebanon's "Islamic Group" to discuss the situation in Lebanon, Damascus radio noted.

Israel

Air Force planes fired seven missiles in an attack on a camp south of Sidon in Lebanon that is "used as a launching base for terrorist attacks," Jerusalem radio announced.

Israel asked the United States to "show understanding" on the deportation issue in an official response to a U.S. official's critical remarks, delivered to the U.S. Embassy by a Foreign Ministry official, Jerusalem television reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied any "tensions" in relations with the United States but said the countries have "differences," Jerusalem radio noted.

A USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel's "haughty and cynical" disregard of international protests against its treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories "aggravates" problems in the region, TASS reported.

A Tulkarm man was killed when the firebomb he was preparing exploded in his hands, Jerusalem radio revealed.

PLO

The political editor of clandestine Al-Quds radio said the "political introduction" to uprising Call No 24 does not represent the "true political orientation of the popular committees" and "some" political introductions do not represent Palestinian "unanimity," the radio stated.

He said Palestinians will continue to adhere to the "instructions" in the calls but their previous "silence" on the introductions was "misinterpreted" and emphasized they will "not allow anybody to bargain" over the uprising or to "exploit" the popular committees.

Pakistan

The Armed Forces have "no lust for power" and will maintain "peace and order" in the country to "fulfill the promise" of the 16 November general elections, according to remarks by the Armed Forces commander cited by Islamabad radio.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, in an address to military officers, "directed" them to "keep away from politics," the radio added. Gen Beg said former President Ziaul Haq's death was the "result of a conspiracy" and referred to "threatening statements" received days before his death from a Soviet spokesman and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, according to Pakistani sources cited by AFP.

"Police and party sources" said opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accepted police protection after being informed of a "possible assassination attempt," AFP reported.

The Afghan charge in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and handed a protest against Afghan Armed Forces artillery attacks in the Khyber area, Islamabad radio disclosed.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin captured the provincial capital of Bamian after a month-long siege, according to resistance sources cited by AFP. Diplomatic sources could not confirm the report but said fighting in the area has been "heavy" in the past few weeks, AFP added.

The sources said a large quantity of "sophisticated weapons," including Stinger, Blowpipe, and Milan missiles arrived recently from Pakistan, AFP reported.

"Criminal extremists" fired four rockets at residential areas of Kabul, killing two people and injuring four, Kabul radio noted.

A Western newspaper report that cited witnesses who claimed Soviet troops "bombarded" Kabul in July is a "nonsensical story" that is part of the rebels' "psychological war," according to a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement cited by TASS.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Delegation Holds Talks in Beijing

For Beijing coverage of the visit to the People's Republic of China by a delegation of the Arab League's seven-nation committee on the Gulf war, led by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 23 August China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP's Habash on Plans for Civil Disobedience

LD2608090888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0814 GMT 26 Aug 88

[By Adib al-Sayyid]

[Text] Moscow, Aug 26 (KUNA)—A Palestinian leader disclosed that the leadership of the Palestinian uprising is planning to take the eight-month-old upheaval gradually into a total civil disobedience against Israel's occupation of the Arab lands.

Speaking to KUNA in an interview while in Moscow, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash said that "we, at this moment, are preparing a partial civil disobedience to serve as an experiment for one week.

"And after this week we will be quiet for a short period then launch another partial civil disobedience for a longer period and then decide when to start a total and a comprehensive civil disobedience," said Habash, whose organization is one of eight making up the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The uprising, which started on December 8, has been growing and spreading despite harsh measures and cruel treatment of the Palestinians by Israeli army.

So far according to official counts, nearly 265 Palestinians and 4 Israelis were killed, thousands were arrested and tens were deported. Within the process of quelling the protesters, many Palestinians lost their houses, jobs and properties and many others suffered deep wounds.

The Palestinian leader said that the Palestinians are determined to continue the uprising until the Israelis withdraw from the occupied territories of 1967 and recognize the Palestinians' right of self-determination.

"This will not happen until the uprising is viewed from the same angle by all Arab states as it is the only historical opportunity openning a new stage of struggle against the occupiers," the PFLP leader stressed. He noted that the uprising will use various methods to inflict economic losses on Israel while attempting to win political support abroad in order to create a wider pressure inside Israel that demands the end of occupation.

Meanwhile, Habash warned other Palestinian leaders against exploiting the uprising by demanding a "quick investment" of it which he said might "practically abort the upheaval and prevent it from being fruitful."

"Our goals cannot be reached by political maneuvers and individual smartness but through creating a major change in the balance of power between the Arabs and the Israelis that imposes on Israel to allow us to exercise our legitimate rights," he said.

Israeli Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat 'Revealed'

PM2508150388 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Israeli Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat in Algiers"]

[Excerpts] Well-informed Arab sources have revealed the dimensions of an Israeli plot to assassinate the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, in Algiers prior to the upcoming PNC session expected to be held in Algiers next September. Meanwhile, in preparation for the session in question, the PLO has prepared a preliminary visualization of the Palestinian provisional government.

The sources said that a small meeting comprising Yitzhaq Shamir, Zionist prime minister; Ariel Sharon, who is a minister in the Zionist government; Avraham Tamir, director of the prime minister's office [title as published]; and the chief of Israeli military intelligence, was held recently.

The sources added that the Israeli military intelligence organization will be assigned to carry out the plot. And if it fails to implement this plot, Israel is likely to launch an effective strike against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon within the coming weeks. The third alternative is to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders who have direct influence over the Palestinian uprising.

The sources said that the plot to assassinate 'Arafat is code-named "The Best Hit." Meanwhile, the political and legal committee formed by the PLO executive office [as published] has completed preliminary visualization of the Palestinian provisional government expected to be declared at the next stage. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B has learned that the forum from which the new Palestinian state will be declared has not yet been agreed, though it is likely, according to Palestinian sources, that Yasir 'Arafat will declare the establishment of the state at the United Nations next month during the UN General Assembly session in September. [passage omitted]

PLO Receives Several Assassination Warnings

JN2608095288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Tunis—AL-BAYAN has learned from a highly-placed Palestinian source that more than one side had warned the PLO leadership that the Israeli intelligence service might assassinate Palestinian leaders usually residing in the Tunisian capital. The same source added that the NATO, Arab, and friendly states were among the parties that had warned the PLO leadership.

PLO Adviser Sha'th Discusses Jordan's Measures

JN2508114788 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 22 Aug 88 pp 24-25

[Excerpt] An attempt was made in Cairo last week to hold a Palestinian-U.S. meeting arranged by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry along with the PLO and the U.S. State Department. The meeting did not take place and Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, returned without closing the door in the face of possible future meetings.

At the beginning of that week, Jordanian King Husayn decided to disengage his country's legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, shifting responsibility to the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Within this framework, two Palestinian voices were heard in Cairo. One belonging to Fayiz Abu Rahmah, doyen of Gaza lawyers in the occupied Palestinian territories; and the other to Dr Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser. Dialogue was held on the future of the uprising, the U.S. role, the possibilities of declaring a Palestinian state, and the secrets of Murphy's meeting which did not take place in protest against the names of Nabil Sha'th and Akram Haniyah.

Dr Nabil Sha'th, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser said: The Jordanian decisions had two aspects: One is political and the second is administrative and economic. I would like to stress here that these two aspects were not at all discussed with the PLO in advance, neither from the standpoint of form, content, or timing. This means that we were not a party to these decisions or their timing.

As for the political aspect of the decisions, we do not object to it because our cause is that of liberation and we demand self-determination. These are demands we seek to obtain from the occupying enemy and not from the brothers, particularly the Jordanian brothers in view of the distinguished historical and future relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Nabil Sha'th adds: We do not conceive a small independent state in Trans-Jordan separate [from the West Bank] nor a small Palestinian state that is geographically and historically isolated from its neighbors. Actually, the political aspect of the recent Jordanian decisions to sever the legal and administrative links between Jordan and the occupied West Bank enhances the PLO's stand in the face of Israel and deprives the Americans and Israelis of the pretext of who represents the Palestinian people.

Following the Jordanian decisions, the PLO's sole representation spares us critical situations in front of the world and the enemy. Although the issue of the PLO's sole representation was approved on the Arab and international levels and was settled in 1974, it has apparently continued to be a Jordanian preoccupation until the recent decisions were issued.

The only political solution proposed was an independent Palestinian state that is confederally united with Jordan with which there will be economic and administrative links and joint political views. However, the recent decisions severed these links at the time of occupation and uprising. There is a great difference between declaring the soleness of representing the Palestinian people politically and declaring the dismissal of Palestinian civil servants in the West Bank and stopping the payment of their salaries.

Dr Nabil Sha'th adds: Disengaging the Jordanian links with the West Bank demanded the distribution of the state property before distributing the state commitments. Jordan should have given us half of the funds and aid decided at the Baghdad summit in support of steadfastness. The problem here is that Jordan stopped its commitment toward us without giving us back our rights, especially since we have been with it since 1949.

[Question] But secession has been an urgent Palestinian and Arab demand for a long time.

[Sha'th] Had the PLO been given the right to choose, it would not have agreed to administrative separation for the very simple reason that the problem in the presence of the Israeli occupation is not only the amount of money needed to pay the civil servants' salaries, but also the channels of getting money there. The Israelis have traditionally accepted Jordanian transfers to civil servants and departments in the occupied territories, but they confiscate every piaster they prove or suspect to be coming from the PLO.

On the other hand, it should be stated that the decisions reflect Jordanian despair of the Americans and their stand. To be objective and fair, Jordan has endured much and was attacked for depending on the U.S. stand in the search for a peaceful settlement. We believe that King Husayn discovered after accepting Resolutions 242 and 338 [sentence incomplete as published]. Hence, the political part of the resolution might be addressed to the Americans and Israelis, too, especially since Peres' line, which calls for adopting the Jordanian option has failed to move Shamir an inch from his intransigence.

[Question] Why did the Palestinian-U.S. meeting in Cairo last week fail?

[Sha'th] On this occasion, I would like to thank Egypt for its efforts to arrange this meeting. In a recent interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, President Husni Mubarak disclosed an Egyptian attempt to hold such a meeting. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry exerted all required efforts to hold it. The PLO responded and named a six-member delegation: Two from the occupied territories, two PNC members residing in the United States, and two others working in the arena, Akram Haniyah and I. Murphy paused at our names and said he is not authorized to meet with persons with whom Secretary of State Shultz has not previously met. He added that he would meet with only four, excluding Nabil Sha'th and Akram Haniyah.

The PLO did not expect anything new in this meeting. It also found that acceptance of the U.S. condition means submission to the completely rejected logic that it is the Americans who should form the Palestinian delegation, and this is strange. Logic says the Americans can form their own delegation, and not the delegation with which they will hold talks. This is a large door which opens a serious precedence for the future when the time for holding an international conference and choosing the Palestinina people's representatives comes.

In any case, the failure of the meeting did not close the door for future meetings as indicated by Murphy's statements in his Cairo press conference in which he made no mention at all of any U.S. veto.

[Question] What are the possibilities of proclaiming a Palestinian government in exile?

[Sha'th] The possibilities are very strong and things will be known within a month when the PNC holds an extraordinary session in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Mahmud 'Abbas on Jordanian Steps, Government

JN2408160988 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Aug 88 p 9

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Mazin, by Basimah Nafadi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Nafadi] What is your assessment and view of King Husayn's recent decision to disengage from its administrative and legal ties with the West Bank?

['Abbas] The Jordanian officials told us they now find it is in the interests [of the Palestinian issue] to disengage from their legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank, particularly since the U.S. peace efforts have reached, in their opinion, a deadlock and the Israelis have not responded to any endeavor in this regard. They find it better, in light of the present situation, to disengage from their relationship with the West Bank.

We would like to say something here. We, as the PLO, were neither acquainted with nor consulted on this decision. However, we do not object to it. And we have informed the Jordanians of this. We and the Jordanians have agreed on how to implement this decision. We have achieved good results on this.

[Nafadi] Would you speak in detail about these results, particularly with regard to the kinfolk in the occupied territory, in terms of opening the bridges, exporting agricultural products, and other things related to their daily life?

['Abbas] I do not believe there will be a change in the existing situation with regard to our kinfolk in the West Bank in terms of bridges or passports. Passports will continue to be issued, but they will be valid for 2 years instead of 3 or 5 years. The bridges will remain open. Jordan assumes its responsibility toward employees and will pay their pensions. Jordan will continue to carry out administrative measures. The joint committee will continue its work, but at the lowest level with regard to Jordan as the Jordanian Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry has become the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry.

[Nafadi] What is the effect of King Husayn's decision on the present momentum of the peace process and the international conference?

['Abbas] Through this step King Husayn has further clarified or defined peace efforts. The Israelis and Americans talked about the Jordanian option and joint Jordanian-Palestinian participation. King Husayn has now placed the Israelis and Americans face-to-face with the Palestinians. This is a test for the United States and Israel if they really want to resolve the Palestinian issue. The United States has before it only the Palestinian option, that is, to talk directly with the PLO. In my opinion, this is good and positive. [Nafadi] Egypt is working to find a channel for direct dialogue between the PLO and the United States. The United States had expressed its readiness to meet with a six-member Palestinian delegation. Why did this meeting fail to take place?

['Abbas] What concerns us in any meeting we may have with the United States is that it include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories to show that the Palestinian cause does not concern only the Palestinians in the occupied territories but also those outside them. Therefore, any attempt by the Americans or the Israelis to confine the cause only to the Palestinians in the occupied territories is rejected. The United States and the Israelis must realize that the cause is more comprehensive, as three-fourths of the Palestinian people are outside the occupied territories.

These Palestinians have rights and they must participate in the negotiations and talks with the United States to reaffirm their rights. These rights are self-determination,

repatriation, and the establishment of an independent state. From this premise we insist that the dialogue must take place with Palestinians from inside and outside to embody the Palestinian people's unity wherever they may be and to confirm that the cause concerns all of the Palestinian people and not only those in the occupied territories.

[Nafadi] Did you discuss this issue once again with President Mubarak when you met with him?

['Abbas] Yes, President Mubarak told us the Americans had agreed in principle to such a meeting and that it was the U.S. ambassador in Cairo who had communicated this to him. The U.S. ambassador told him that a meeting would be held between Richard Murphy and Palestinians from the occupied territories and from outside these territories. On the basis of this information we submitted a list of names at Egypt's request.

But when Murphy came to Cairo, he refused to meet with some of the members. Murphy said: It seems the situation is not yet propitious to meet with Palestinians from outside the occupied territories. He also said the Egyptians have exerted efforts and have brought pressure to bear on him to make him meet with all the members of the delegation.

[Nafadi] Do you believe the forthcoming U.S. elections and the rivalry between the Democrats and the Republicans could have been one of the reasons for the U.S. rejection or do the three noes still dictate the U.S. stand?

['Abbas] The three noes still dictate the U.S. stand. But the presidential campaign certainly takes into consideration Jewish voters. Perhaps they fear their popularity as Republicans will suffer or they might lose some votes here and there. But the basis is that the three noes still dictate the U.S. stand.

[Nafadi] Egypt emphasizes the importance of cordination between the PLO and Jordan and exerts continuous efforts in this respect. Is there an initiative by President Mubarak to convene a meeting between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat? Was such a topic discussed during your visits to Amman and Cairo?

['Abbas] The administrative and legal disengagement between Jordan and the West Bank, the emergence of the Palestinian option as the only option, and Jordan's recognition the option is a Palestinian option and the PLO alone is responsible for the Palestinian cause do not prevent coordination among us and Jordan, Egypt, or even with Syria if it so wishes. This is so because we all are parties in the international conference. Coordination must continue among these parties as ultimately we will all sit down at the same table.

Perhaps we will attend the conference as a united Arab delegation. That's why coordination is important. Coordination is not only important but imperative. We discussed this issue here in Cairo and we agreed to pursue coordination and maintain relations among the three parties: the PLO, Egypt, and Jordan. We also welcome coordination with any other party, particularly the Syrians if they want to join us.

From our part, we must emphasize coordination does not mean a joint delegation. It only means cooperation, understanding, coordination of steps, agreement on joint Arab action, and discussion of all issues from their legal, political, historical, and geographical aspects. Such is the coordination that should take place among all the Arab parties. This is what we insist on and what the brothers in Egypt have been speaking about.

[Nafadi] Will a meeting take place soon between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and King Husayn?

['Abbas] Yes, King Husayn has extended an invitation to Brother Abu 'Ammar and the invitation still stands. We were recently informed that the invitation still stands and that King Husayn welcomes Brother Abu 'Ammar at any time.

[Nafadi] In your meetings with the Egyptian delegation, did you discuss the future of the Gaza Strip and is there any intention of handing the Strip over to the PLO?

['Abbas] We touched on the issue of the Gaza Strip. However, Egyptian officials know very well and believe that the settlement of the Palestinian cause cannot take place through a solution of the Gaza Strip issue alone. They believe the solution must tackle the entire Palestinian cause. Therefore, they do not accept a separate solution to the Gaza Strip as such a solution will certainly be at the expense of the comprehensive solution to the Palestiniasn cause. This Egyptian stand is explicit and has been communicated to us by President Mubarak.

[Nafadi] What new developments have taken place with respect to the extraordinary PNC session? What are the major lines of the PLO's policy in the next stage?

['Abbas] The PNC, orginally, was scheduled to meet to discuss how to support the uprising. Then came the Jordanian measures. This enhanced the importance of a PNC meeting as soon as possible. In addition to this, the international developments, represented by the detente between the two superpowers, Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative relations with the West Bank, as well as the escalation of the uprising have made it necessary to seek a new formula for future Palestinian diplomatic and political moves.

This is where the idea of a temporary government and the declaration of the independent Palestinian state through the United Nations originates. This requires the temporary government to have a defined and clear

political program, which might, in one way or another, be different in its items and conditions from what is presently proposed and that goes along with the present stage.

All this is under study by the political and legal committees formed by the Executive Committee and the Central Council. Therefore, the PNC will not meet until all these issues are crystallized and clarified, their characteristics made clear, and the political leadership submits to the PNC clear, specific things for the latter to adopt.

[Nafadi] As for the temporary government, is its program going to be different from the PLO's in that the emergency national council will be asked to amend the charter or the national program?

['Abbas] Up to now, talk about all these issues is premature. As I said, all this is left up to the committees and the leadership.

[Nafadi] There are definitely certain ideas?

['Abbas] There are ideas, but they are all under discussion at the moment. We cannot say there will be a change in the charter or in the national program. Issues are being studied now in light of the changes I mentioned. Despite this, I doubt there will be a change or amendment in the Palestinian National Charter.

[Nafadi] But in light of the statements by Bassam Abu Sharif, who talked about two states, one Palestinian and one Israeli, neighboring one another and direct negotiations and what he declared in the document named after him—does all this mean a change or tendency toward change inside the PLO and the political leadership?

['Abbas] We should not consider individual statements as representing policies inside the PLO; they do not represent PLO official opinion. This means when Bassam Abu Sharif makes a statement, it does not represent 'Arafat's opinion 100 percent. It represents his own opinion. It could be a personal opinion or it could represent a trend inside the PLO. We cannot claim these statements are PLO policy, even if they lead to certain indicators.

The next point I would like to concentrate on is that when they talk about direct negotiations, it should be understood we have to view the picture from all perspectives and read the statements comprehensively. There is not a single person in the PLO who says he wants direct negotiations without an international conference. An international conference first, within the framework of which there definitely will be direct negotiations.

Some understand the word "negotiations" as meaning the two delegations, the Palestinian and the Israeli, will sit together and hold direct talks. This is categorically rejected. There is something called an international conference and the international conference is divided into multilateral or bilateral committees. These committees, in actual fact, sit together to discuss the issue. This is where what is termed direct negotiations take place, under the auspices, supervision, and administration of the international conference.

[Nafadi] What about the question of the recognition of Israel?

['Abbas] The subject of the recognition of Israel and of Resolutions 242 and 338 depends on Israel's own reactions to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[Nafadi] Recognition and reactions before, after, or during the negotiations?

['Abbas] Not necessarily before. We will absolutely not offer anything whose results we do not know. Why before, after, or during. This matter concerns Israel. This subject concerns Israel. Will Israel recognize the Palestinian people's rights first or not? Will it recognize the existence of the Palestinian people? We are also wondering about all these questions. How can we be asked to recognize Israel when it does not recognize us?

[Nafadi] Regarding the announcement of the provisional government, are there any consultations taking place with certain European governments and are the European states discussing the recognition of a provisional Palestinian government?

['Abbas] When we began considering this idea among other things, we also began holding consultations on a wide scale with our Arab brothers, with our friends, especially the USSR, and with many European states, including those which do not recognize us. These consultations are also being held with the nonaligned states, the Islamic states, and the African states. We are now holding extensive talks with all these quarters. Our opinion and stand will be based in light of these consultations and also in accordance with our interests.

[Nafadi] Will the provisional Palestinian government be announced during Abu 'Ammar's speech before the European Parliament?

['Abbas] It is not essential for Abu 'Ammar to make such an announcement in Strasburg. The matter has not yet crystallized. It depends on the consultations, decisions, and current studies. In other words, the whole issue is still under study.

[Nafadi] Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi spoke about a conference in Tripoli to achieve reconciliation with the Palestinian groups which did not attend the last PNC's unification session in Algiers. What is the latest on this subject?

['Abbas] We have already said the seats of those who did not attend the last PNC session in Algiers still exist in the PLO, the PNC, and the PLO Central Council. They can

fill them at any time they decide to return to the PLO. We do not object to them. In fact, we have no right to object to them. Many efforts at reconciliation were made but without success. Perhaps, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi now wants to exert an effort in this direction. We welcome his efforts, although we are certain these people will not come back because their decision is not in their hand.

[Nafadi] Regarding the venue of the next PNC session, have there been Algerian reservations about hosting it? Where will the session be held?

['Abbas] I do not think Algeria has thus far changed its position. We asked a number of our Arab brothers if they would allow us to hold the PNC in their countries. Finally it was decided where to hold it. The Algerian brothers welcomed it in their country and we thank them for their welcome. Algeria has previously hosted the PNC sessions and now the Algerians welcome it in their country.

Even if we suppose they have a political viewpoint different from ours, this will not prevent us from holding the PNC in their country and making the decision we want because Algeria does not interfere in our affairs and we take our independent decision wherever we meet. If, for example, we hold our PNC session in Cairo, we will make our own decision and not what Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, or Syria wants. What is important is that we have not yet decided where to hold our next PNC session. However, Algeria, Iraq, and Tunisia are countries where the session might be held.

[Nafadi] What is the effect of the PLO's new policy or the PLO officials' recent statements on the progressive forces of peace within Israel? Will talk about talks with and recognition of Israel help these forces change Israeli public opinion?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that moderate and flexible talk helps the peace forces in Israel and the uprising also helps. The uprising is clear evidence which can be used by the peace forces to convince the extremists and others that peace must certainly be established in this area. Otherwise, the area will continue to be volatile and a source of threat to the entire world. Therefore, not only statements have an impact; the continuation of the uprising has the most important impact.

[Nafadi] My last question is how you view the future vis-a-vis the Palestine question?

['Abbas] We are very optimistic because the near future will bring important tidings as there are certain facts before us. There is the uprising, which is the basis for the continuation of the Palestinian revolution. There is the international accord which will end the world hotbeds of tension. There is also the change overtaking the European, U.S., and even Israeli public opinion. All these are signs indicating detente is imminent and a solution should be reached. I believe there will be important steps toward holding an international conference following the Israeli and U.S. elections. We will be a party to this conference which will begin to resolve the Palestine question.

PNC's Al-Sa'ih Cited on 'Temporary' Solutions

NC2608093688 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
22 Aug 88, pp 24, 25

[Interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by AL-SHIRA' correspondent Majidah Sabra in Amman "prior to King Husayn's announcement of the disengagement of legal and administrative ties between the East and West Banks of the Jordan River"—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Sabra] Do you not believe that the camps war in Beirut was designed to divert attention from the current uprising in the occupied territories?

[Al-Sa'ih] What happened in some camps—Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah—and what may yet happen in the Sidon area, is undoubtedly part of a scheme linked to the United States and Israel designed to end the Palestinian presence in Beirut. We must keep in mind that this presence does not seek to interfere in Lebanese affairs. I believe that this scheme certainly does not serve the uprising.

Nevertheless, the PLO has decided to reconstruct the camps so that the residents may return to them. It also is currently adopting measures to prevent a recurrence of what happened in the Beirut camps and to prevent similar events from taking place in the Sidon camps.

[Sabra] Some people, however, are saying that war is coming.

[Al-Sa'ih] This is because it is part of a big scheme.

[Sabra] This issue makes us wonder whether any efforts are being exerted to bring the Palestinian factions together to avert such a war?

[Al-Sa'ih] Certainly, we always are announcing such matters.

[Sabra] Announcements are one thing, actual implementation another.

[Al-Sa'ih] We announce resolutions. The PFLP, DFLP, the communists, and also some Muslim elements have returned to their institutions. Some have returned to the PNC or to the PLO Central Council. Some have returned to the PLO Executive Committee. We have opened our hearts and continue to do so to all the factions so that they may rejoin their legitimate institutions and hold a dialogue on everything on which they used to disagree. What more do you want us to do? Drag them back by force?

[Sabra] A feeling prevails in Beirut that 'Arafat was behind some of the schemes which were implemented in Lebanon in the past. The proof is that two networks working for him have been arrested. The networks were under the command of two majors. One was called "Baha'" and the other 'Abu Iskandar." Their aim was to carry out bombings and assassinations in Beirut in order to upset the security situation. What do you think of these reports?

[Al-Sa'ih] I believe that the reports "fabricated" about Yasir 'Arafat are designed to get rid of Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO, and the Palestinian rifle in order to clear the way for others to speak on behalf of the Palestinians. We are willing to work with any Arab party which is seeking to end the occupation but not seeking to liquidate the Palestinian presence. We are in Lebanon in order to defend our presence there and to protect our sons who do not have a homeland. Where will they go?

We want to rebuild Sabra and Shatila. We want to rebuild Burj al-Barajinah so that the Palestinians will return to the camps. We do not want to interfere in Lebanese affairs. On the contrary, we care about Lebanon's interests and independence, and we want legitimate authority to extend to all Lebanese territory. This does not mean, however, that we will neglect our Palestinian people's interests in Lebanon. We are concerned with the continued existence of these people.

[Sabra] How do you explain the statement attributed to 'Arafat that he had asked Romanian President Ceausescu to convey a message to the Israeli Government in which he asserted the PLO's willingness to conduct negotiations over a temporary settlement with regard to the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967?

[Al-Sa'ih] 'Arafat has not acknowledged this particular statement. The disagreement continues between Shahal and the Israeli prime minister. The prime minister says: I will take measures against Shahal. Shahal in turn reports that Bassam Abu Sharif's statement about Israel conveying a message to 'Arafat through Romania inviting him to negotiate with it is true. They said this and it is on record. What we want to ask, however, is: Does this contradict the decisions of the national councils? No.

In the national councils we decided to accept a temporary solution. What does a temporary solution mean? It means that we would take what we can and then make a demand for the rest. We do not object to having a state, God willing, on half or a quarter of our rightful land. We can demand the rest later. This is a temporary solution which we decided to accept within the PNC and it was adopted in the presence of all the factions and all the Palestinians who are members of the PNC or the Executive Committee.

[Sabra] Why go for temporary solutions when the Palestinian stones have shown that you can win the battle?

[Al-Sa'ih] We are not against this either. We are not saying that the stone-throwers should keep quiet.

[Sabra] Still, how come so many are calling for temporary solutions, termed by others as defeatist, when the Palestinian people are proving successful inside [the territories]?

[Al-Sa'ih] Let us be frank. When Gorbachev met Reagan for the first time, before the Moscow summit, did they discuss the Palestinian issue? No. Why? Because the uprising was not strong and not visible. When the uprising became visible the same two leaders met in Moscow and they thought about the need to resolve the issue. The stronger the uprising is the stronger our position becomes. We do not want to give up any of our rights over any part of Palestine, but we accept the resolutions of legitimate international bodies.

[Sabra] Do not think that the more you show readiness to negotiate the more intransigent Israel becomes?

[Al-Sa'ih] On the contrary, I do not think that we have shown any willingness to compromise.

[Sabra] How would you describe what has come to be knonw as the Abu Sharif document?

[Al-Sa'ih] I have been asked about the Abu Sharif document before and my answer remains the same. The Abu Sharif document has been published in varying versions, some in English and some in Arabic translation. I have asked for a copy of the original English text which appeared in newspapers so that I can send it to a reliable translator because my English is poor. When I get the translation I will be in a position to form an opinion on the contents of the document.

[Sabra] How did you find the various versions you saw?

[Al-Sa'ih] Contradictory. Contradictory. Some versions claim links with PLO policies. Some maintain that the document is an article which Bassam Abu Sharif did not sign. Some brothers told me that Bassam Abu Sharif wrote another article in the same paper [not further specified] and on the same date, and that this article is in line with our position on the Palestinian rights to a homeland, to a state, and to independence, and so on, but does not touch on Israel's position.

So you see, the reports are inconsistent. For example, it is reported that Yasir 'Arafat, when asked about the document, said: I have not seen it; had I seen it, I would have been able to make some comments. What are the comments that 'Arafat would have made? I would say that he would have taken exception to any sentence that appeared inconsistent with the rights of the Palestinian people.

[Sabra] Does it stand to reason that, in light of the sensitivity of the current stage and that Abu Sharif is 'Arafat's political adviser, Yasir 'Arafat is not informed about Bassam Abu Sharif's written or other statements.

[Al-Sa'ih] You are talking about what makes sense and what does not. I am just citing 'Arafat.

[Sabra] Is it possible that the Abu Sharif document was merely a trial balloon?

[Al-Sa'ih] I will not make any comment until I read the original document. Only then will we be able to talk about it.

[Sabra] But it has been over 2 months since the document was made public?

[Al-Sa'ih] So what. We have a Central Council and we will have the opportunity to discuss the aspects of the political situation.

[Sabra] Since when has "the struggle" become subordinate to the bureaucracy?

[Al-Sa'ih] This is not a matter of bureaucracy. The Central Council is not a bureaucracy.

[Sabra] I am talking about an article which was published 2 months ago. Why have you not seen it so far? You are taking too long.

[Al-Sa'ih] No. No. We are not taking too long. Mosad and the United States are working closely together. They come out with a new idea, proposal, or rumour on a daily basis. They then promptly deny them. This is why we should not rush to deny or confirm any of this news.

[Sabra] It is being reported that opposition exists within the PLO Executive Committee toward the Abu Sharif document.

[Al-Sa'ih] I do not know. I am not a member of the Executive Committee.

[Sabra] Are you telling me that an individual working within an institution would be making statements just to express personal views?

[Al-Sa'ih] That is democracy.

[Sabra] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) is said to have apologized to Bassam Abu Sharif for the flak which the document has drawn.

[Al-Sa'ih] I have not seen Khalaf, but you can ask him. [passage omitted]

Political Introduction of Call No 24 Criticized

JN2508172488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio on Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Article by the political editor: "On the Political Introduction of Call No 24]

[Text] From the beginning, we pointed out that all backing must be given to the heroic popular committees in Palestine. We also pointed out that they are the only ones who are leading in the neighborhoods, alleys, camps, villages, and cities. It has been proven in reality, and through the hostility shown by the Zionist enemy against these committees, that the efficiency of the popular committees is high, and that the result of this efficiency is represented by this heroic continuation of the mammoth popular revolution in Palestine.

It has also been proven that Rabin, all Zionist war generals, and all Zionist security officers are after the heads of the popular committees, because these committees manifest the theory and practice of the leader people. The latest campaign, led by Rabin personally, is only a proof of the big and leading role played by these committees.

The leadership that follows up the work of the uprising in the whole of Palestine on the ground, and with close and direct contact with the masses, is the true leadership of the stones' heroes and of the revolutionary people. The popular committees are this leadership.

The popular committees in every neighborhood, village, camp, and city, lead the heroic uprising. They supervise the work of the strike forces; the collection of stones and the manner in which these stones are thrown; the providing of slingshots and assigning those who use them; the popular education and the distribution of teachers and pupils; the health; the security; and everything in our kinfolk's daily life. This is part of the role played by the popular committees. It is not the whole role, because their role is bigger, greater, and more entrenched than it appears to be.

We say this because there are some who are trying to steal the effort and achievements of the popular committees. We also say this because there are some who are trying to exploit the efforts and achievements of the popular committees in the interest of certain proposals. We also say this because the political introduction of the latest Call No 24 does not represent the true political orientation of the struggling popular committees, and because some political introductions do not represent the Palestinian unanimity.

We warn that this does not benefit the national unity and consolidation inside [the occupied territories] against the Zionist enemy. We adhere to the instructions stated in the calls. We will continue to put ourselves in their service. But, at the same time, we assert that the political

introduction of Call No 24 does not represent us, nor does it represent our struggling people, who call for the continuation of the struggle until the defeat of the Zionist enemy.

For a long time, we remained silent over some political introductions. It seems that this silence was misinterpreted. But we will not allow anybody to bargain over our people's mammoth revolution or to exploit the heroic popular committees for other goals. God is with us. Victory is near. Together on the path of liberating land and man.

Commentary Ridicules Syria's Mustafa Talas

JN2608082688 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1741 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Perhaps you know the so-called Mustafa Talas, who is defense minister in the political configuration of the odious, sectarian Damascus regime. Most probably, you also know that General Talas' fame does not stem from the fact that he is defense minister as much as from the fact that he is a general who is only concerned with flowers and the eyes of beautiful women. He himself has admitted this time and again.

In any case, in an interview with DER SPIEGEL, Mr Talas, whom the Syrians desribe as a nobody, said that he opposes an independent Palestinian state, as if he were the one to decide. What is important here is that Mr Talas opposes an independent Palestinian state. Why, O softhearted general? He says he opposes such a state because there are 21 Arab states at present and that we do not need another.

Must we remind Mr Talas that this means that he is defending the Sykes-Picot plan? If this is not so, then Gen Talas seems to be saying to us that opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is a pan- Arab action of the first degree and a revolutionary action that will lead to unity, liberation, and progress.

Since the Israeli enemy is one of the staunchest opponents of the independent Palestinian state, then he and the Damascus regime will certainly, according to Syrian logic and claims, wage revolution and liberation in the entire Arab region. Well, those who are shameless really can do anything.

Since the Damascus regime and its cadres are only capable of prattle, they pursue this bad commodity and seek to export it, although it has been exposed as being one of the worst commodities among the Arab masses, particularly the Syrian masses. Millions of these masses rushed to participate in the funeral of martyr leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] after many years of rabid media campaigns and indoctrination by the Syrian media against the PLO. This confirms to the Syrian regime that its media campaigns have been useless and that no one believes its resounding slogans any more.

Yes, the funeral of brother leader Abu Jihad has confirmed this reality. In spite of this, the Damascus regime continues to peddle its deficient commodity. This is not surprising, for the Damascus regime is expert only at peddling such commodities and has nothing else.

The Syrian regime is only well versed in cheap talk and cries, especially since all of its conspiratorial roles and agreements with the Arab nation's enemies have been exposed, specifically following the defeat of its allies in Iran, which has made it lose the cards of blackmail and charlatanism that it was still holding. It is well known that when cornered, rats can only resort to hysterical cries.

A last word to Gen Talas: Why bother with politics, O softhearted general? Be content with the eyes of beautiful women.

Mr Mustafa, sorry, we have forgotten that the beautiful women of the Mosad dictate to you what to say, and since you pride yourself on being a gentleman, you always respect beautiful women and listen to what they say, even if they utter foolish talk and political scandals.

Egypt

'Right To Scrap' Treaty if Tabah Not Returned

LD2608092088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 26 (KUNA)—Egypt has the right to scrap its peace treaty with Israel if Israel does not return the disputed territory of Tabah to Egypt in case international arbitration decides in favor of Egypt, a leading Egyptian politician was quoted here Friday as saying.

Speaking to daily AL-WATAN, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the People's Council Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah said that "Israel's prime minister can not carry out his pledge that he will not give back Tabah to us if the decision was against Israel."

He added that he is certain that the decision of arbitration will be in favor of Egypt because all geographic maps since 1906 and even those in the hands of Israel prove clearly that Tabah is part of Egypt.

"If Israel rejects the decision of international arbitration, we have no alternative but to severe our relations and withdraw our ambassador because Israel's action violates the peace treaty," the Egyptian politician asserted.

The remarks of 'Abd al-Ilah were sparked by statements from Israel's Premier Yitzhaq Shamir in which he said that Israel will not give back the territory of Tabah to Egypt even if a decision by the arbitration called for that.

The peace treaty of 1979 stipulated that the two sides negotiate through international arbitration an end for the Tabah dispute and both sides is obliged to implement the decision of arbitration.

Mubarak Receives Verbal Message From 'Arafat

NC2508213088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a verbal message from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, dealing with the situation in the occupied Gaza Strip and the laws being enforced there.

AL-AHRAM in its Friday issue states that the PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, conveyed the message to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following the former's return from Tunis.

Mubarak Confers With Visiting Djibouti President

NC2608094888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a 1-hour meeting this morning with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled, who is currently in Egypt for a visit to last several days.

President Gouled began a private visit to Egypt yesterday.

Security Forces Storm Mosque in 'Ayn Shams

PM2508104588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by 'Imad Mahjub, 'Amir 'Abd al-Mun'im, Samir al-Mulayh, and Nasir Faruq: "Bloody Friday in 'Ayn Shams"]

[Excerpt] Security organs last Friday and Saturday carried out a barbaric campaign in which hundreds of Central Security soldiers took part, turning the 'Ayn Shams area into a battlefield. The forces fired at citizens, killing 4 and wounding 89.

After storming the Adam Mosque in the area the forces arrested 500 Islamic Group members on the pretext of preventing the weekly seminar the group organizes on Fridays after the dusk prayers.

The bloody events began when residents in the area were surprised by the presence of a large number of minibuses carrying huge numbers of Central Security and special forces. They were all armed with machineguns. After the dusk prayers the forces besieged the mosque from all directions.

[Islamic] Group members hastened to close the mosque's door, taking shelter inside and chanting "There is no God but Allah, and [Interior Minister] Zaki Badr is the enemy of Allah." Women and children present in the mosque were screaming.

And without any warning tear gas and smoke bombs were then hurled into the mosque. Residents assembling in the surrounding streets were both angered and alarmed by the extensive presence of security forces and their aggression against worshippers, so they began to throw stones and fireballs and clashed with the security forces, setting fire to a police vehicle. The security forces responded hysterically, firing bullets in all directions.

As a result, the wounded and injured fell on the ground, innocent blood was shed, and four of the sons of the area were killed. Furthermore, demonstrations erupted in the streets reiterating antigovernment slogans. Police vehicles were set alight and streets were barricaded with burning tires and cars.

The confrontation area expanded in a dangerous way, especially after the number of injured increased as a result of the haphazard firing. That forced the Interior Ministry to use forces from the Jizah Police Directorate.

Armored vehicles moved into the area, pursuing residents in the streets and hurling bombs into the streets and through windows. The clashes continued until 0200 hours. The security forces stormed the mosque with their shoes on. They were beating up every person in the mosque, including women who suffered suffocation and

fatigue as a result of the density of gas inside the mosque. They destroyed the mosque's clinic, which cost over 30,000 pounds to build. They also destroyed the mosque's library as books, including holy books, were scattered everywhere.

And when some worshippers were able to jump into some adjacent houses the security soldiers followed them, destroying the contents of the houses and beating up the owners. Among them was Mustafa al-Nuss, in whose house 20 citizens were found.

Disturbances continued until Saturday morning. Three police vehicles were set alight. Thus, large numbers of special forces backed by armored vehicles arrived, combing streets and alleyways and firing haphazardly at anyone leaving his home. As a result, an additional number of people were injured, among them a child who was killed instantly when he was shot in the head. Residents were pursued in the streets. Traders closed their shops and a curfew was imposed on the area!

As of Friday evening security organs imposed a tight guard around the 'Ayn Shams police station where nearly 60 vehicles carrying security forces were deployed. There were also forces around the Al-Alf Maskan and Al-Masakin police stations. Three Central Security vehicles were also stationed inside the Al-Shams Club. A strict guard was imposed around the Al-Salam Hotel and the Heliopolis Hospital, where there were large numbers wounded by bullets fired by the Central Security forces.

A state of emergency was declared in all police stations near where the events took place. These stations are surrounded by huge numbers of security forces. Search and arrest operations are still continuing, as intelligence officers and special forces, together with karate teams, are spreading throughout the area. They are still making house searches. [passage omitted]

Ghali Marks Anniversary of Ties With USSR

NC2508131288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the record of Egyptian-Soviet relations reflects the friendship, mutual understanding, and cooperation which has always marked their relations. They embody a relentless struggle to establish peace and defend people's rights, within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, he added.

In a statement he made today on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Egypt and the Soviet Union, Dr Ghali said there are wider prospects for developing and intensifying productive cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union to the advantage of their common interests.

Dr Ghali said: We trust that Egyptian-Soviet relations will always help to establish the principles of peace, progress, and reconstruction to serve the interests of both peoples and mankind.

Delegation Leaves for ROK, Bangladesh

NC2608110388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0952 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Assistant Foreign Minister Dr Wafa Hijazi left Cairo this morning for a 12-day tour of the ROK and Bangladesh.

In a predeparture statement, Hijazi said he will sign a cultural agreement in the ROK. He added he will then travel to Bangladesh, where he will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral ties.

Press Chief Rebukes Journalists for 'Deviation'

NC2508180488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Ibrahim Nafi', head of the press association [and editor in chief of AL-AHRAM], has asserted that the deviation by certain journalists from the code of honor, the law of the association, and the code of ethics in any political controversy related to our domestic issues or Egypt's relations with the Arabs, represents an unacceptable infringement on the freedom of the press and the journalists' code of honor.

In a statement issued today, Ibrahim Nafi' said nobody is denied the right to express his views on any issue, but freedom can only flourish under a sense of responsibility and this responsibility demands that every free journalist rise above the level of insulting or defaming the leaders of sisterly Arab states. However, he added, this does not affect the journalist's right to disagree in the framework of pan-Arab interests.

Nafi' stated further that he will suggest that a meeting of the board of directors of the Journalists Association and the chief editors of national and party newspapers be held. This meeting, he explained, will reiterate a commitment to the law of the association and to the codes of honor and ethics, so that in this atmosphere of freedom which we all endeavor to protect against any attack, the law will be the one deciding factor between those who are committed and those who are not.

Nafi' added that the members of the association are committed to the code of honor, the law of the association, and the ethical principles of the profession. He emphasized that this commitment is the real shield which protects and fosters the freedom of the press in Egypt, a freedom, he concluded, which is enjoyed by both the journalists and the public and recognized and appreciated by all.

Sudan

Relief Association Appeals for Flood Aid

EA2508181088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Reports reaching Radio SPLA from different zones and liberated areas have confirmed efforts to rescue citizens and their properties in the areas hit by floods in the southern part of the country. According to the reports, people are being evacuated from the low, flood-affected areas to highlands. These efforts are being carried out in accordance to the directives of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command to all zonal and area commanders to supervise evacuation of the citizens to non-flood areas.

In another development, reports say that the situation is gravely deteriorating in the areas affected by heavy rains and floods. The reports also speak of an apparent threat of epidemic diseases and acute hunger, which is affecting both people and animals.

In the light of this human catastrophe, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, appeals to the international community and international humanitarian and benevolent organizations to rush in relief assistance to the flood-affected areas under SPLA control and to increase their assistance to the other areas in Khartoum and the northern part of the country and the east, especially in (Karsima), Ad Dabbah, Barbar, Kassala areas; and Bor, Pibor, Akobo, Nasir, (Fanjak), Bentiu, Sobat, Yirol, Tonj, and Gogrial areas in the southern part of the country.

Tunisia

Chadian Minister Arrives With Habre Message

LD2408230688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Chadian Foreign Minister Lassou Gouara arrived this evening in Tunis with a message from President Hissein Habre to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, on his way home from Khartoum, visited Ndjamena on a mission for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Chadian president.

Kuwait

Army Chief of Staff To Visit Soviet Union

LD2408125588 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—Major-General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani', chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union late in August this year. The Kuwaiti commander has been invited by Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of General Staff and first deputy defense minister of the USSR.

Briefs

Army Deputy Chief of Staff

This morning at 0845 his highness the amir received Shaykh Nuwwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, minister of defense, who presented to His Highness Staff Major General al-Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah on the occasion of his promotion and appointment as deputy chief of the Army General Staff. [Text] [*LD2508045088 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Aug 88*]

Oman

Briefs

Official Receives Ambassadors

His Excellency Qays ibn 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, received separately in his office this morning Nayif Shahir al-Hadid, Jordanian ambassador to the Sultanate, who came to bid farewell to his excellency on ending his tenure; and Muhammad 'Umar 'Abdallah Ba Sa'd, PDRY ambassador to the Sultanate, as part of the latter's get-acquainted meetings with senior Omani officials. [summary] [*JN2108155788 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Aug 88*]

New Ambassador to Thailand

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has received His Excellency Mushtaq ibn 'Abdallah ibn Ja'far, who presented to his majesty his credentials as Oman's nonresident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to friendly Thailand. [Excerpt] [*JN2408155688 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 88*]

Ambassador Ends Tenure

The ROK president has received Hamad ibn Nasir al-Tubi, the Sultanate's ambassador accredited in Seoul, who called on the president to bid him farewell on the occasion of the end of his term of office as an extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary of the Sultanate to the ROK. [Summary] [*JN2508172888 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 88*]

PDRY

'Arafat Addresses Palestinian 'Cub' Graduates

EA2508205388 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces, and sister Umm Jihad, member of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement, arrived in Aden this evening for a visit to the PDRY which will last several days. During the visit, Brother Abu Ammar will be the patron of the graduation of Palestinian cubs and flowers from the martyr leader Abu Jihad training course.

He was met on arrival at the airport by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Foreign Relations Directorate of the YSP; Brother Muhammad Abu Shanab, charge d'affaires of the office of the PLO representative in Aden, and the brother representatives of the Palestinian groups accredited to Aden, the commander and officers of the Palestine Yarmuk Forces, and a representative group of the Palestinian cubs and flowers and Yemeni pioneers. There was also a large group from the Palestinian community in Democratic Yemen. In a statement to the media representatives in Democratic Yemen, Abu 'Ammar said: First, I want to say I have come from the Palestinian part to the Yemeni part. Yemen is in three parts: the northern part, the southern part, and the Palestinian part. I am happy to be here to meet the brother officials, especially under current fateful circumstances through which the Palestinian cause is passing in our occupied country and the blessed uprising which is escalating daily despite the terrorist iron grip which is increasing in violence against our children, women, and people in the occupied territory. But in spite of all this, the uprising is continuing and escalating.

There are other developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly after recent Jordanian measures and their important and serious consequences for the Palestinian struggle. Also, there are current developments in the Arab and international arenas.

We would also like to state our happiness and pride at the end to the Iraq-Iran war and the steadfastness of the Iraqi Army at the eastern gate of the Arab nation. Let all forces unite to liberate the first Kiblah and the third sacred place [Jerusalem].

Of course, there are a number of issues between ourselves and the brothers. We will discuss them. Yemen—with its leadership, party, Army, and people—bears an important responsibility beside the Palestinian people and their struggle. We are proud of that.

I, on behalf of our people, revolutionaries, and heroes, voice my greetings and appreciation for that principled stand. I will also have the honor to participate with my brothers in viewing the graduation of this batch of our cubs from the Abu Jihad training course, named for the martyred leader who is a symbol and a hero.

Fisheries Minister Returns From USSR, Cuba
EA2408162788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Salim Muhammad Jibran, candidate member of the [YSP] Political Bureau and minister of fisheries, returned to Aden this morning after concluding his visits to the socialist Republic of Cuba and the USSR. Brother Jibran said in a statement to ANA that his talks with fish industry ministers in Cuba and the USSR were successful and dealt with the development of cooperation in the sphere of fishing. They also touched on the exchange of experience in the development of fishery resources and the ideal investment in this area. He said that during the visit he toured a number of fish establishments in the two friendly countries.

It is worth noting that during the visit of the brother minister of fisheries to the socialist Republic of Cuba, a protocol was signed, dealing with how work in the field of fishing was to be directed in the coming period between our country and Cuba.

The minister was received on his return by Brother 'Abd al-Wahhab Sharaf, deputy minister of fisheries, and by a number of officials from the ministry.

Qatar

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for PRC
JN2108160288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0743 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 21 Aug (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Qatar's Foreign Ministry undersecretary, this morning left Doha for Beijing for a visit of several days to the PRC. He was seen off at Doha Interntional Airport by Foreign Ministry officials.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Speech Delivered to Jakarta Conference
LD2408193888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Tal'at Hamid, the Kingdom's ambassador to Indonesia, made a speech at the international conference on solidarity with Afghanistan which opened in Jakarta today. The conference was organized by the Indonesian-Afghan Peoples Solidarity Organization.

Speaking on behalf of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the ambassador urged Muslims to offer support to the Afghan mujahidin until such God grants them the opportunity to liberate Afghanistan and achieve self-determination.

The custodian of the two holy mosques pointed out that the Islamic nation is passing through a critical state in its glorious history. He stressed the importance of preaching correct Islamic principles and avoiding perverted principles and misguided ideas that have resulted from the political, ideological, and economic conflicts taking place all around our Islamic nation.

That requires, he said, vigilance, unity of ranks, abandoning schisms, and discarding differences. We must resort to harmony to prevent differences of opinion and ideas that do not benefit the Islamic nation.

The custodian of the two holy mosques called for redoubling efforts to spread the Islamic call by scientific means, explaining to people the true Islamic faith. He said Islam is the religion of forgiveness, compassion, and justice which preaches all that is virtuous and forbids all that is corrupt. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

AL-ITTIHAD on Soviet-Made SS-21 Missiles
JN2408200588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the YAR recently received long-range Soviet-made surface-to surface SS-21 missiles. Western military sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that the YAR Armed Forces actually received no less than four missile-launching pads earlier this summer.

The sources pointed out this step reflects a Soviet openness with respect to supplying Sanaa with sophisticated weapons following a relative stalemate in armament relations between them. The sources described the SS-21 missiles as enjoying relative immunity against retaliatory strikes because of their high mobility.

Economic Cooperation Minutes Signed With Libya
JN2408185688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Organ, and member of the Standing Committee, today received Dr Farhat Sharnanah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who is visiting our country. The two officials discussed aspects of economic cooperation between the two sisterly countries. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa.

Minutes for economic, trade, and financial cooperation were signed between our country and Libya. Minister of Finance 'Alawi Salih al-Salami signed the minutes for our country and brother Dr Farhat Sharnanah signed the minutes for Libya. The minutes call for joint cooperation in the fields of investment and trade exchange between the two countries. The signing ceremony was attended by the under secretary of the Planning Ministry; the under secretary of the Economy, Supply, and Trade Ministry; and a number of officials from the Economy, Supply, and Trade Ministry.

Reportage on 'Direct Negotiations' With Iran

'Closed Session' Begins

JN2508142888 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, INA—Direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar started this afternoon at Palace de Nations in Geneva at 03:45 Geneva local time.

The Iraqi side headed by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister sat on the right side of the negotiating table while the Iranian side which sat on the left side was headed by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Iranian regime. The 6-member team of the United Nations attending the negotiations was led by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Direct negotiations are taking place at the Council Chamber of the Palace de Nations which witnessed over the past 40 years prominent international negotiations, gatherings and conferences—the latest of which were the negotiations on Afghanistan last April.

Some 200 journalists and cameramen from international news agencies, T.V. and radio stations who converged in the hall were allowed to stay for two minutes only. Journalists and cameramen were asked to leave the hall and the session was announced a closed session.

The session of the direct negotiations started when the 6-member U.N. team, headed by Secretary-General [Perez] de Cuellar entered the hall—followed three minutes later by the 15-member Iraqi delegation and the 13-member Iranian delegation who entered the hall from oposite doors.

Before the start of the opening session of the direct negotiations, Mr. [Perez] de Cuellar told reporters that he expects that this session will continue for four hours.

A closed T.V. channel transmitted events of the first seconds of the opening session while journalists were inside the hall then stopped its transmission when the journalists evacuated the hall.

Mr. 'Aziz took his seat in the middle of members of the Iraqi delegation who took their seats at his side and behind him.

Mr. 'Aziz after taking his seat lit a cigar and was seen in a good mood.

Seats of the Iraqi delegation were under a big painting depicting human liberation painted by the famous Spanish artist Jose Maria in the years 1934-1936.

At 06:00 local time, members of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations left the hall of the negotiations for having tea then returned to resume their first closed session.

INA correspondent quoted Mr. Francois Guiliani, official spokesman of the U.N. secretary-general as saying that other closed sessions between the two sides will take place tomorrow and after tomorrow.

Swiss Official To Supervise

JN2508195988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 25 Aug (INA)—Francois Guiliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, has said it has been decided to select former Swiss President Kurt Furgler to succeed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in mediating at the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

The INA correspondent said that former Swiss President Kurt Furgler will assume responsibility soon after Perez de Cuellar returns to New York after the first round of negotiations in the next few days. He added that two closed working sessions will be held at the Palace de Nations in Geneva tomorrow and the day after tomorrow to resume the direct negotiations which began in Geneva under the supervision of the UN secretary general.

Separate Consultations Held

JN2508193988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 25 Aug (INA)—A few minutes ago, Francois Guiliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, said that the talks session has stopped and that the assistants to the UN secretary general are currently holding consultations with the Iraqi and Iranian sides in their rooms. He added: However, the negotiations are proceeding normally and this stop must not be misinterpreted.

The INA correspondent quoted Guiliani as saying the consultations of the UN secretary general's assistants with the two delegations will continue with them separately in their own rooms. When he was asked until when, he said: Until they are finished. He added that separate consultations with both sides is an ordinary issue in such negotiations. He pointed out that the UN secretary general is now in the main hall where the negotiations began.

First Round of Talks Ends

JN2508204288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 25 Aug (INA)—The first round of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations was concluded at 2305 Baghdad time.

Javier Perez de Cuellar gave a statement to the press in which he said that the talks were good and that the two sides will meet again at 1030 Geneva time tomorrow after they consult with their governments. He said: We are discussing serious issues. The procedural matters were settled and we are working seriously. We must be patient.

When asked whether tomorrow's session will also be a direct face-to-face one or will it be held in two separate rooms, the UN secretary general said that they will be conducted in the same manner as today's.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the accompanying delegation left the Palace of Nations in Geneva at 0010 Baghdad time. The Iranian delegation also left the Palace of Nations in Geneva.

Second Session Begins

JN2608095888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 26 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi delegation under Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived at the Palace of Nations at 1110 local time in preparation for the beginning of the second session of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran. The Iranian delegation under Velayati later arrived at the Palace of Nations later.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the UN delegation comprising five of his senior political, military, and legal assistants had already arrived at the Palace of Nations.

Second Session Concludes

JN2608114688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 26 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi-Iranian negotiating session ended this afternoon. The INA correspondent says that the third negotiating session will begin at 1530 Geneva time, 1730 Baghdad time.

Francois Guiliani told the press that the UN secretary general will not go to lunch but remain in his office.

UN Observers Warned by Kurdistan Front

JN2508162488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Iraqi Kurdistan Front [Jabhat Kurdistan al-'Iraqiyah], which comprises the anti-Iraq Kurdish parties, today announced their determination to continue the war against Baghdad. The front warned the UN observers who will monitor the Iraq-Iran cease-fire that it will not be able to ensure their safety in the Kurdistan region.

The front's representative abroad Jalal Talabani said an end to the Iraq-Iran war will not end the war inside Iraq and there will be no peace as long as a just solution for the Kurdish problem is not realized, as he put it.

PLO's 'Arafat Leaves After 4-Day Visit

JN2508183888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad today following a 4-day visit to Iraq.

He was seen off by the director and members of the RCC Arab liberation movements office and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

AL-TADAMUN Interviews Finance Minister

PM2508131588 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 22 Aug 88 pp 8,9

[Fu'ad Matar report on interview with Finance Minister Hikmat al-Hadithi in Baghdad "in last week of July"]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] Following are the ideas of the Iraqi finance minister, who is one of the students of the Saddam Husayn school—that is, a member of the group that worked closely with President Saddam and is familiar with his vision and concepts of how Iraq will be, particularly after the war:

About an increase in the price of the dinar:

—The question is not only an increase in the price of the Iraqi dinar abroad. The problem is how to achieve economic stability in Iraq, especially under the exceptional circumstances facing us as a result of Iranian aggression. Iraq's economic resources are great, beginning with the oil wealth. We possess the largest reserves in the world. But oil does not constitute all of the wealth, since the Iraqi people possess great capabilities, but most of them are on the war front. Economic resources will double and the Iraqi economy will develop substantially after the war. There is a studied plan, which was started in 1985 and will be developed from time to time. [passage omitted]

About the most difficult financial situation Iraq ever faced during the war, and the loans issue:

—Probably the most difficult situation of all was the fact Iraq was forced to continue development while financing the war and ensuring a balance in economic and social life. For this reason Iraq was forced to seek loans. [passage omitted]

About investment, printing of banknotes, and relations with the World Bank:

—In my opinion, Iraq is the best country for Arab investment, not only because of the resources available to investors but because of a very important and basic factor, namely the fact that Iraq's decisions are made on a pan-Arab basis in order to achieve Arab economic integration. And this in itself guarantees the capital searching for investment.

Despite our economic situation in general, we have never been forced to turn to an emergency war economy—which proves Iraq's economic strength. This is also proved by the fact we do not need any help from the IMF at all. At the moment there are no surprises with regard to the budget. Besides, there is no intention to print new banknotes. But there are very important measures which we do not want to talk about now.

Planes Attack 'Terrorist Base' in South Lebanon

TA2508161088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli air force planes attacked a terrorist base south of Sidon this afternoon. All our planes returned safely. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the attack took place near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. This camp has been used as a launching base for terrorist attacks.

Lebanese radio stations report that Israeli Air Force helicopters fired seven missiles at the terrorist targets. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the casualty toll has not yet been released.

Response to U.S. Position on Deportation Given

TA2508183088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Israel officially responded this evening to the U.S. demand to stop the deportation of Palestinians from the territories. In reply to the remarks of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Whitehead, it was stated that deportations are carried out only in exceptional cases so as to prevent acts of violence and incitements to violence.

Israel hopes the United States will show understanding to the use of deportations in exceptional cases. The Israeli reaction was delivered this evening to a counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv in a meeting with Mikha'el Shilo, director of the Foreign Ministry's North America Division.

Heeding of U.S. Warning Urged

TA2508172488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 9

[Editorial: "The Significance of the American Warning"]

[Text] The U.S. reprimand on the deportation of Palestinian Arabs did not come out of the blue. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead's message in his meeting with the Israeli charge d'affaires is likewise no novelty.

But we would be sinning against ourselves if we failed to note the ill-boding stylistic change in the reprimand. We would be committing an even greater sin if we tried to minimize the gravity of the threat of U.S. sanctions—rhetorical or otherwise.

Knowing our American friends' proclivity for delving deeply into legal matters we should not have been surprised by their insistence on the legality of the expulsions. According to their reading of the Geneva Convention all deportations are illegal, not just mass deportations as contended by Israel. The Americans maintain that Israel has turned deportation into a norm. To wit, the number of people who have so far been deported this year is larger than the aggregate number of deportees in the 3 previous years.

Yet it seems that all these arguments—and they are of diverse natures—are irrelevant. The important thing is that U.S. opposition to Israeli policy, which is perceived as a policy of nothing more than the use of force, is mounting steadily. The rebuke and its attendant threat serve to underline this opposition in very clear terms.

If this assessment is correct there is not much point in voicing counter-arguments based on Israel's interpretation of the Geneva Convention, even if we regard this interpretation as the more correct reading of the text, at least from the historical point of view. Neither is there any sense toning down the import of the rebuke by presenting it as a dispute stemming from different legal interpretations.

This is a political falling-out, with our greatest—or, as the pessimists would have it, only—friend. The damage could be felt in areas reaching far beyond a vote in the Security Council.

Anyone with his head screwed on right can understand that the attempt to cling zealously to only one aspect of our war against the intifada [uprising] will limit Israel's freedom to carry out policing activity. In other words, there is an international campaign to redirect Israel toward a course of action that will result in an arrangement to be reached through some form of negotiations. The way to achieve this is by limiting the military options.

Admittedly, Jordan has already washed its hands of the negotiations; it is true that the PLO is not yet ready to conduct them; and it is also true that some important Arab opponents of the prospects, such as Syria, have already begun to voice their opinions on the matter. All these, however, were evidently not enough to deter the international community or even the United States. This may be regrettable, but anyone in his right mind and with a measure of national responsibility should realize that this is happening and that no matter how hurt Israel may feel, it will change nothing.

It seems that we must draw two conclusions from the U.S. reprimand and its implications. First, that if we deport people in the future, even with the soundest justification, we will be required to pay the price for what to us appears as a manifestation of our sovereign right. Second, that despite the Israeli objection to the Shultz plan, the United States has not and will not abandon its efforts to push us toward negotiations with any Arab party ready to meet Washington's minimum requirements.

The impending U.S. elections have not given us another time-out. This may come as a surprise to some Israeli circles and dash their expectations. Additionally, if this

is happening in the pre-election period, we would be well advised not to delude ourselves as to what lies ahead after the elections. The whole world, with the United States as its spearhead, will never let Israel deal with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza purely and exclusively according to the consideration of maintaining public order. The Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el have been promoted thanks to the intifada; from now on they are partners to a political settlement.

Rejection of U.S. View Rebuked

TA2508140188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Unity Among the Naysayers"]

[Text] When it comes to saying "no" and the issue is something over which the two major political blocs agree, there is not a political body in the world that can do it better than our national unity government. Naysaying is the unity government's forte. This is where its components perform with surgical precision. This is strenuous, dangerous business—but it is their specialty, and they thrive on the joy they derive out of performing it. The Israeli ministers have already done that to all the world's heavyweights.

It would take more than one John Whitehead from the State Department to embarrass them with his criticism over the expulsion of intifada [uprising] leaders from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Jerusalem cannot recall when Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres have ever reached an agreement on anything so quickly.

The prime minister and the foreign minister understood that this time it is not just another wishy-washy American protest, phrased meekly just to get the job done. Yet they still hoped they could tell the United States off with another non sequitur. Peres' Foreign Ministry tried to outsmart everyone by contending that there is a longstanding dispute between Jerusalem and Washington over the legality of deportations and that the High Court of Justice had found them to be perfectly kosher.

It is true that Whitehead mentioned to minister plenipotentiary 'Oded 'Eran, just in passing, that there is also the legal angle of the matter, but in view of the fact that there would be 60 deportations, in Washington's opinion this is picayune. No one in the United States gives two hoots about the jurists' opinion. The United States only worries about the possibility that Israel might be wiping out the entire Palestinian leadership that might, at some future point, come to the negotiating table.

The real issue, however, is not only the deportation orders signed by Yitzhaq Rabin; it is Ari'el Sharon's plan, with which a senior and select group of ministers from the Alignment and the Likud are familiar. The industry and trade minister operates on two planes:

—He is suggesting that the stone and firebomb throwers as well as the local leaders be deported. This would boost the election campaign and would also serve as a deterrent. In effect, he is not aiming for the mass expulsion of all those involved in terrorist activity; he intends to issue several dozen deportation orders against the intifada's political leaders who are identified with the PLO.

They will be allowed to appeal to the High Court of Justice, only to lose the legal battle. Their punishment will not be banishment, as this could irk the West, but merely a suspended deportation order. Sharon believes this will be sufficient. The Palestinians fear the implementation of the threat.

—Sharon is more interested in deportations and a clamp down on the PLO's political activities. He sees Faysal al-Husayni as constituting a greater hazard than any local popular committee in Nabulus. The political leaflet written in East Jerusalem and the joint Jewish-Arab symposium held at the Hebrew University are more dangerous to the Likud's ideology than a Molotov cocktail or roadblock could ever be. The real struggle is over the political figures.

Israeli experts on U.S. affairs believe that the Americans would have kept quiet were the deportees Palestinians who had engaged in violence. They fear, however, that Israel's arrows are aimed precisely at the moderates in the PLO ranks, those who are seeking channels of communication. These arrows are bound to be drawn at an increasingly faster rate the more the Palestinians voice their reservations about the Palestinian Charter and express their readiness to recognize Israel's existence.

All the same, the timing of the U.S. protest remains a mystery. It will not suffice for Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering to argue that this is a longstanding dispute, word of which has only now incidentally leaked, turning it into a cumbersome political problem for their respective governments. The sharp U.S. rebuke is desirable neither to the Likud nor to the Alignment, nor, for that matter, to Washington itself. As Israeli specialists on bilateral affairs have noticed, the U.S. Administration is set on launching a resolute, even unprecedented, campaign of courting the Jewish voter.

The administration goes to great lengths to stress that no previous U.S. Administration has been as friendly or close to Israel as that of Reagan and Bush. If the State Department still chose to submit its sharp reprimand under these circumstances, perhaps there was some secret drastic move that forced it to initiate a step that could directly affect the vice president's interests. This may also be a manifestation of a lack of communication in the U.S. Government.

The rhetorical aspect of this was never questioned. Any self-respecting government would have to reject such a rebuke, especially when presented as a public admonition. When the U.S. ambassador entered the prime

minister's chambers in Jerusalem yesterday, he knew that he would encounter a resounding no from Shamir. But in such cases, the Americans always console themselves by saying that the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Pickering hopes that in actual fact the deportations will be limited. However, even he understands that, at least in the immediate future, the government will nevertheless continue with some headline-capturing deportations to show the electorate that it proudly stands its ground in the face of public opinion.

Background to Policy Examined

TA2508185788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text]—Why are prospective deportees not brought to trial?

The security authorities do not bring prospective deportees to trial because they cannot; they simply do not have enough legal evidence which would be admissible in court.

The decision to deport a person actually resembles the decision to place him in administrative detention. In both cases there is not enough evidence on which the person could be convicted which would be admissible in court. The security authorities believe that the very fact that the man is free endangers security.

—If the conditions for deportation are identical to those of administrative detention, why is the prospective deportee not placed in administrative detention?

The difference is that prospective deportees are people for whom administrative detention would not suffice to prevent them from affecting state security. Even if they are thrown in jail they would continue to incite unrest and rioting.

There is authoritative material against prospective deportees proving that they are leaders of popular committees and are involved in the instigation of the intifada [uprising]. The decision to deport them also stems from the fact that the security authorities are convinced there is no chance they will mend their ways, even if they are punished.

These people use covert methods making it impossible to collect admissible evidence against them. They run vast organizations whose objective is to replace the Civil Administration and create anarchy in the territories. The only evidence that these people play a key role in the intifada comes from intelligence sources. However, this information does not constitute enough evidence to bring them to trial. Deportations are carried out on a selective basis and are also meant as a deterrent.

—What is the legal basis for deportation?

The legal basis is Clause 112 of the 1945 Emergency Defense Regulations. As the security authorities see it, this regulation does not contradict Clause 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the defense of civilians in times of war. Clause 49 mentions mass deportations for the purpose of forced labor or extermination, such as was carried out by the Nazis in Europe.

—If the deportations are carried out on the basis of intelligence information, how can they be controlled or overseen?

Every deportee has the right to approach an appeals committee made up of a military judge and two officers. If the committee's ruling is unacceptable to the deportee he can appeal to the High Court of Justice which examines the reasons for the order to deport him, the security-intelligence background behind it, and the person's record. On the basis of this information the High Court then decides whether to accept or reject the appeal.

—How can we explain the fact that the appeals, control, and overseeing authorities have not yet upheld any appeal?

The process preceding the issuance of a deportation order is so meticulous that it is hard to appeal. The recommendations of the security authorities are initially sorted by local legal experts. Later they are examined by the military advocate general, the Justice Ministry, and the coordinator of government activities in the territories. Only after this examination does the Defense Ministry approve the deportation.

Therefore, the case is foolproof and resistant to any appeal. It should be noted that not all the recommendations of the security authorities are approved or lead to deportation.

—If this is so, why do the Americans denounce and protest deportation?

The Americans have a different interpretation of Clause 49, based on the premise that people should not be deported, not even on an individual basis.

Rabin Comments on Meetings With Palestinians

TA2608092588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (HOTAM Supplement) 26 Aug 88 pp 7-9

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ya'aqov Lazar and Avi Bnayahu; on 17 August, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Question] You have said on several occasions that "the Palestinians will gain nothing through violence." Has this saying been justified after 9 months of uprising? What is your message for the Palestinians? How will they achieve anything?

[Rabin] My saying, to which I still adhere, originates from a simple fact: The Palestinian violence in the territories has far-reaching goals which in principle are different neither from those the Arab countries had when they started war with us, nor from the goals of the PLO in its acts of terror against us. I believe that the goals set by the leaders of the violence in the territories present a threat to Israel's security and future.

I believe that 8 months ago, as well as today, we had two options of how to face this violence: One was to surrender to the violence, run away and clear out of the territories, all or most of them. The other choice was to say, "violence will get you nowhere" and stand against it within the framework of the law.

I am convinced that to surrender to the violence would be disastrous for Israel. It would bring about more violence, more terror, and bring the threat of war closer. That is why, for as long as it takes, the principle of nonsurrender to violence must guide our policy in treating it. I am not a Greater Israel man but, in my view, this principle is essential for any political solution.

I have served as defense minister for almost 4 years now and have met dozens of so-called leaders in the territories with different political opinions. I have told them: Gentlemen, if you want to talk about a solution, select a leadership. We cannot do that for you. Should such a leadership arise that would say we are your partners for negotiations, I would definitely talk to it. If what you are saying, however, is that you are only couriers, mailmen for my messages, then half of them are sent to Amman and the other half to Tunisia.

I do not negotiate with mailmen. Make up your mind. You are the masters of your own destiny. You are the largest body of Palestinians ever to have lived within the boundaries of Mandatory Eretz Yisra'el. Decide that you are our partners and I will be willing to sit down and talk with you.

They of course all said, some with a smile and some while looking at me as if I were a madman: You know we cannot do that.

[Question] You met with Palestinians even after 9 December 1987?

[Rabin] After 9 December I held meetings with Muslim fundamentalists, pro-Jordanians, people inclined toward the PLO, and others. I told them: Look, for the first time since 15 May 1948, the Palestinians in the areas of what used to be Mandatory Eretz Yisra'el are leading the Palestinian struggle. Because we spoke in English, I said: Why do you not get into the driver's seat [last two words in English] and lead?

[Question] What did they reply?

[Rabin] I will give you an example. I made a promise not to disclose any names. We have open talks that are interesting even when we disagree. They are not afraid to say what they want. In one case I met a group of four men from Gaza. One of them was an extreme pro-Islamic, another was pro-PLO. There were no pro-Jordanians among them.

One of them said to me: Why are you asking me this question? You know very well that the PLO will eliminate anyone who "will emerge" [last two words in English] as a leader. I was very surprised. I have heard this kind of expression before, but only in one-on-one meetings. Never before in such a forum. The other three were sort of angry with him. So he turned to me and said: If the PLO does not eliminate me, Mr Minister, you will put me in prison and there will be no leadership anyway. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Formulates Security Plan

TA2508140688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Text] The military achievements of the 6-Day War will become political achievements—this is one of the principles of the security plan formulated by the Alignment election headquarters by a team of former lieutenant generals and major generals headed by Avigdor ben-Gal. The Alignment's security plan is contained in a five-page typewritten document, and the following are some initial details:

The political-security plan will be based on the principles of the Allon Plan. The security team did not draw any maps, but agreed on several principles which are "vitally essential" as far as Israel's security needs are concerned. The plan stipulates that the IDF would be stationed along the Jordan River, but does not specify the exact deployment of the troops or talk about a boundary similar to the Bar-Lev Line.

These are the main points of the security arrangements included in the plan: A security border along the Jordan Rift Valley; demilitarization; demarcation of security zones within the territories which would include settlements and military installations; stipulation of security settlements; reserving the right to conduct pursuits; reserving the IDF's right to enter the evacuated areas; deployment of early-warning systems; freedom of flight over the West Bank; removing the threat of missiles.

The document states that the security concept of the State of Israel will be of a defensive nature on the strategic level and of an offensive character on the operational-tactical level. It further notes that the area which would be handed over in exchange for peace would be surrounded by Israeli troops in the west, north,

south, and east. Under no condition whatsoever would Jerusalem, areas of security importance, areas densely populated by Jews and of security value, and the Jordan Rift Valley be given up.

The document adds that peace would be maintained because this would be a common interest shared by all the parties:

A. Israel would enter a period of nonbelligerence; it would exit the cycle of belligerence and would proceed toward contractual peace.

B. Today's enemy would satisfy its political aspirations in those areas perceived by it as important in the national-historical sense and on which we agreed to compromise. (Clause B is particularly important because it talks about a political option for the enemy).

The security message will be conveyed by the generals who recently joined the Alignment, including Ori Or and Avigdor Ben-Gal. They will go to the field and will be filmed as they explain the security arrangements proposed by the Alignment.

The security information team decided to stop using the term "concession" because of its negative connotations and to start talking about the handing over of populated areas instead.

"I will not use the word concession because I do not think there is a concession involved," says Ori Or, "the principle behind this being that the reference is not to territories but to people, people we do not want. We will emphasize that the entire area to be handed over would be surrounded on all sides by the IDF and would be closed to terrorism and hostile activities. We will illustrate the demographic issue through intimidation. This, however, will be coupled by a solution, which is handing over of territory while taking meticulous care of the security arrangements."

Likud Plans Territory Autonomy After Elections

TA2608095888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Minister Moshe Arens, and a senior Likud team are initiating a far-reaching political move for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, focusing on a unilateral implementation of components of the autonomy plan based on the Camp David agreements.

Minister Moshe Arens, one of the initiators of the political move which will be implemented in the territories only if the Likud forms the next government, has told HADASHOT that the purpose of the plan is to create conditions for a direct dialogue between Israel and elected Palestinian leaders in the territories.

The first stage in the plan calls for free elections to the institutions of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. According to Arens, the elections will be free of any Israeli involvement or pressure. "The Palestinian inhabitants will elect a council for self-rule which will conduct civilian affairs in the territories—and we will speak with the members of this council. The persons elected will be the Palestinian representatives for negotiations with Israel."

HADASHOT has learned that the prime minister supports the idea of transferring civilian functions from the Israeli Civil Administration into the hands of the elected institutions of autonomy. The autonomy will deal, for example, with municipal issues, local taxes, education, employment, welfare, transportation, and health. The judicial institutions will also enjoy independence in local issues.

According to the Likud plan, the sole responsibility for foreign and internal security will remain in Israel's hands. Contrary to the Camp David agreements, the Likud does not intend to give the Palestinian autonomy bodies any authority in internal security issues, such as forming a local police force.

Shamir and Arens believe that an Israeli initiative after the elections will improve the atmosphere in the region and will receive the blessing of the next U.S. Administration.

Strike Forces Structure in Territories Viewed

TA2508161788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p A3

[Text] The strike forces are a kind of national resistance group operating in Judaea and Samaria. They constitute the organizational, operational, and ideological infrastructure of a future popular Palestinian army expected to emerge from them. Today it is the strike forces that initiate and carry out the uprising in the territories.

These details about the strike forces were disclosed for the first time in the Paris-based weekly magazine AL-WAFAQ which is identified with Jordan. The article, the first of its kind, unveils the structure of the strike forces, their internal hierarchy, regulations, recruitment methods, and avowed objectives.

The ideological concept behind the strike forces is to have a comprehensive popular framework to maintain the dynamics of the intifada [uprising] events. These groups operate as part of a general framework known as "the team of guardians of the uprising" which is subordinate to the "Unified National Command of the Uprising."

The avowed purpose of the leaders of the strike forces is the establishment of a popular army comprised of all Palestinian youths over the age of 15. The document published in the magazine lists eight key objectives of the

strike forces. The common denominator of the objectives is the continuation of the popular struggle against the Israeli authorities in the territories, the recruitment of all youths to this struggle, maintaining the PLO as the supreme authority of the uprising, and turning the forces into the future basis of a formal popular army.

Admission to the strike forces is open to anybody over the age of 15. The article also lists the obligations and rights of its members. The hierarchical structure of the forces is particularly interesting: At the bottom is the cell (majmu'ah) which includes 5 to 10 members headed by a commander, a deputy commander, and a security chief; it is followed by the group (al-wahdah) which is made up of several cells and is headed by a commander, and by the unit (al-firqah) which is made up of several groups.

A cell is usually organized in a neighborhood or a street, the group in a village or refugee camp, and the unit in a certain region. Communication between the cell commanders and the commanders of groups and units is secret and absolutely compartmentalized so as to avoid the possibility of whole groups and units being uncovered at one time.

Unit commanders report to the headquarters of the strike forces on the operational level. They submit annual reports which include details about their activities and the recruitment of personnel. The cells and groups are named after the martyrs in their areas.

The financial resources of the strike forces consist of the personal funds of the members, donations, and allocations by the supreme command of the strike forces. The forces give financial support to the families of victims and PLO detainees. Any Palestinian joining the forces must take a special oath of allegiance. A member of the strike forces is expelled if he disobeys the strict disciplinary orders. The statute of regulations of the strike forces is temporary until a final statute is drafted.

The strike forces have vastly increased their activities in the last few months in terms of terrorist attacks, violent disturbances, and operations against collaborators. The author of the article writes that the strike forces are probably at an advanced stage of formalizing their activities.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

IDF Closes Health Association

TA2508164788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen, Ran Levi, and Copenhagen-based correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The commander of the Central Command yesterday ordered the closure of the "Sick Man's Friend" association. This is a Tulkarm charity which is financed mainly by donations. A large IDF unit, headed by the military governor and the head of the Civil Administration in the area, searched the association's offices and received its patient list.

The association runs a first-aid clinic, a physiotherapy ward, and an x-ray ward which is currently being constructed by a German technician. "No one told me the reason for the closure, just that there are security reasons," said Dr Riyadh Shalabi, who heads the association.

"We are complementing the services provided by the Tulkarm Hospital which lacks the equipment that we have. We have never treated any of the casualties from the uprising. We have never concealed our patient list." Dr Shalabi condemned the closure and called on the WHO and other international bodies to intercede on behalf of his association. [passage omitted]

Colonel 'Severely Reprimanded'

TA2508185588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The disciplinary action against Colonel G., the brigade commander involved in the Bani Na'im incident, ended this evening. He was found guilty of illegal use of arms. The deputy chief of staff severely reprimanded him. This was reported by military sources.

The investigation indicated that the shooting occurred as part of a ground chase of a fleeing individual. The brigade commander was not convicted of manslaughter, but of illegal use of his weapon. The deputy chief of staff and the defendant visited the scene of the action to review at first hand the circumstances of the incident. It became clear that there was no malice or forethought. The event occurred due to a misinterpretation of a regulation, which led to the incident.

Arab Dies Preparing Firebomb

TA2508202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Two attempts by Arabs and Druze to prepare firebombs ended in a death and injuries. In one case, the body of Jalal Shakir of Tulkarm was found in a field near the town on Tuesday night. He was apparently killed when the firebomb he was preparing exploded in his hands.

Arab sources spread the rumor that Shakir had been killed in a clash with Jewish settlers in the Tulkarm area but, as noted, a subsequent investigation revealed that he had been killed while preparing the explosive charge. Our correspondent points out that Shakir was released in the prisoner exchange with Ahmad Jibril. [passage omitted]

Arab Wounded in Ramallah

TA2508203088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] A resident of Ramallah was wounded by gunfire this evening in an incident involving another Arab resident. The Ramallah resident was attacked under circumstances which are still being checked. The victim opened fire at his assailants, wounding an Arab youngster. The youngster was taken to a hospital.

Our correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat adds that there were riots in the Qalandiyah refugee camp this evening.

Increased Alert in Jerusalem

TA2608053288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] This morning the security forces lifted the curfew from the Jabalyah and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. The curfew remains in effect in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and in the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza.

Nabulus, as well as several refugee camps and villages in the West Bank, are still under curfew. Last night there was relative calm in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that the security forces have increased their alert in East Jerusalem in order to prevent disturbances. The most recent leaflet issued by the leaders of the uprising calls upon the inhabitants of the territories to mark a historic Muslim date with disturbances today.

Police Close Arab Union Offices

TA2608082488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] This morning the Jerusalem police closed down union offices in Bayt Hanina for 1 year by order of the commander of the Central Command. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that police forces surrounded the offices and confiscated documents. HADASH spokesman 'Uzi Burstein protested the closure of the offices, claiming that to prevent the existence of workers unions in the territories is inconceivable.

Attempted Assassination Fails

TA2608105288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Another assassination attempt in the territories: Unidentified persons yesterday tried to assassinate an inhabitant of Jabalyah, a fireman employed by the Civilian Administration. His family members wounded two of the assailants with knives and chains. The two were hospitalized; after receiving treatment they were detained.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a similar attempt to attack a Civil Administration worker in the Gaza Strip took place several days ago.

Herut, Liberals Merger Ceremony Held

TA2508181788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] A short while ago the agreement on the unification of the Likud was signed. The Likud's first 50 candidates to the Knesset, as well as several signatories of the 1965 GAHAL accord between Likud and the Liberals, signed the Likud unification charter.

Right now, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir—who was earlier elected as the united Likud Movement's chairman—is addressing the joint forum.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that a congratulatory message from former prime minister and movement leader Menahem Begin was read out in the ceremony.

Sharon: U.S. Trade Demarche Not Yet Official

TA2608060788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by David Grossman—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Minister Sharon, earlier in our program we reported that the preferential status granted by the United States to Israel in trade and customs may be harmed as a result of a complaint lodged by a pro-Arab organization regarding the violation of the rights of Arab workers in the territories. Have we already received an official announcement regarding this threat?

[Sharon] We have not yet received any official announcement on this issue. We know that an Arab-American group has recently complained about the arrest of leaders of workers unions. These, however, are cover names for terror organizations in Judaea and Samaria. Our position is that economic agreements must not be involved in Israeli security issues. When we are dealing with the security of Jews in Eretz Yisra'el, or the security of any residents of Eretz Yisra'el, we cannot allow foreign intervention even by Israel's best friends.

[Grossman] I asked you whether we received an official announcement, or did you learn about the issue from us?

[Sharon] To repeat, we have not received any official announcement. I heard this story from the Voice of Israel. I want to emphasize that for the Israeli Government, the welfare and security of Jews come before anything else, and in these issues we will continue acting as we deem appropriate.

[Grossman] Are you satisfied with the condition of the Arab workers?

[Sharon] I would be happy if we could all live in peace and quiet. The organizations mentioned are not innocent workers unions. They are what we call front-line organizations which have been a cover for the PLO's political branch for many years. These organizations are responsible for the difficult situation that exists today.

I am not satisfied with the situation; more than once I have demanded that they receive conditions similar to Israeli workers. Here, however, we are not dealing with workers; we are dealing with organizations which hide Arab terrorist activity. We will take all the moves we deem necessary. If we are officially contacted we will explain to our U.S. friends that when the lives of Jews are concerned, Israel cannot be pressured with economic steps.

Agreement Signed With Norway Over Heavy Water

TA2608100388 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by Jerusalem-based political correspondent]

[Text] The Israeli and Norwegian Governments have reached an agreement concerning supervision over the use in Israel of heavy water purchased in Norway in the past, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The Norwegian Government demanded that Israel report to it on the use made of the heavy water that was bought for nuclear research purposes, having been pressed by public opinion in Norway following the publications made by Vanunu concerning nuclear weapons in Israel. The long negotiations yielded an agreement according to which the Norwegian Government will have a certain right to receive reports on the use of the heavy water in Israel.

At the time, Israel claimed that the Norwegian water has been mixed with water from other sources and cannot be distinguished from other water.

Jordanian Dinar Drops Following Husayn Moves

TA2508154288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent in Jerusalem Gad Li'or]

[Text] The rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar has dropped considerably in the territories in the wake of King Husayn's decision to pull out of the territories. The Jordanian dinar was traded yesterday in the black market in East Jerusalem at only 4.20 Israeli shekels, compared to 5 shekels 3 weeks ago.

The reason for this is that hundreds of merchants and businessmen have been drawing money from their bank accounts in Jordan because they are anxious that King Husayn might proclaim additional measures. They have been smuggling the money abroad, particularly to the Persian Gulf countries and to Europe.

Briefs

New Intelligence Corps Chief

The IDF spokesman announced this afternoon that Brigadier General Oren Shahor will tomorrow be appointed chief of the Intelligence Corps, replacing Brigadier General Giyora Zore'a who ends his assignment. [Text] [*TA2508193888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88*]

Newspapers' Boards of Directors Dissolved
JN2608081288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Aug pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman—PETRA—To bolster the national role of the Jordanian press in serving Jordan's pan-Arab objectives—whose foundations were laid down by His Majesty King Husayn—and to fulfil the message of the press in conveying truth, information, and constructive criticism; and out of concern for the interests of the investors in the Jordanian press establishments, the Economic Security Committee has decided the following:

1. [As published] To dissolve the boards of directors of the three press companies, namely, SAWT AL-SHA'B, AL-RA'Y, and AL-DUSTUR.

Temporary administrative committees will be appointed for 2 years as follows:

a. The Dar al-Sha'b press, printing, publication, and distribution company—SAWT AL-SHA'B:

1. Munir al-Durrah as chairman of the administrative committee and representative of government shares. He is a former board of directors chairman.

2. 'Isam 'Aridah as member and representative of government shares.

3. 'Ali al-Dajani as member representing shareholders. He is a former board of directors member.

4. 'Abd al-Hayy al-Majali as member. He is a former board of directors member.

5. Dr Mundhir al-Masri as member and representative of government shares.

6. 'Ali al-Safadi as member and representative of government shares.

7. Rafi' Shahin as member and representative of government shares.

b. The Jordan Press Foundation—AL-RA'Y:

1. Dr Khalil al-Salim as chairman of the administrative committee. He is the former deputy chairman of the board of directors.

2. Hasan Hammad as member. He is a former board of directors member.

3. Eng 'Ali Abu al-Raghib as member. He is a former board of directors member.

4. Radwan Hajjar as member. He is a former board of directors member.

5. Dr Radi al-Waqfi as member and representative of government shares.

6. Tirad al-Fayiz as member and representative of government shares.

7. Radi Ibrahim as member and representative of government shares.

c. The Jordan Press and Publishing Company—AL-DUSTUR:

1. Kamil al-Sharif as chairman of the administrative committee. He is the former chairman of the board of directors.

2. Tawfiq Kiwan as member. He is a former board of directors member.

3. Ghalib Abu Qurah as member. He is a former board of directors member.

4. Nabil al-Mu'ashshir as member. He is a former board of directors member.

5. 'Abd al-Salam al-Tarawinah as member. He is a former board of directors member.

6. 'Ali Gharayibah as member and representative of government shares.

7. Muhammad Amin as member and representative of government shares.

Yesterday evening, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with a number of chairmen and members of the new press administrative committees.

He explained the reasons for these decisions and wished them success in their new tasks to serve Jordan and its press message.

The administrative committees in the three companies held separate meetings led by chairmen of the new temporary administartive committees in the presence of the information and industry and trade ministers.

The committees voiced appreciation and thanks for the state's confidence in them.

Chairmen and members of the press committees voiced readiness to shoulder honestly and sincerely their new responsibilities in the service of the homeland and its pan-Arab objectives.

The following decisions were made:

1. The administrative committee of SAWT AL-SHA'B decided to appoint 'Isam 'Aridah as director general and Sultan Hattab as the newspaper's managing editor.

2. The AL-RA'Y administrative committee decided to appoint Dr Radi al-Waqfi as the foundation's director general and Rakan al-Majali as chief editor.

They succeed Muhammad al-'Amad, the former director general, and Mahumd al-Kayid, former chairman of the board of directors and former chief editor.

3. The AL-DUSTUR administrative committee decided to appoint 'Abd al-Salam al-Tarawinah as deputy chairman of the administrative committee and chief editor and Salih al-Zu'bi, former Foreign Ministry secretary general and the current director general of the Jordan University strategic studies institute as the foundation's director general as of 26 August 1988.

Briefs

King's Private Secretary Named

Amman—PETRA—A royal decree has been issued approving the appointment of His Highness Prince 'Ali ibn Nayif as his majesty's private secretary. [Text] [*JN2608072988 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Aug 88 p 1*]

Release of Waite, Other Britons Predicted

NC2608074488 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Aug 88, p 11

[Text] A leading figure in West Beirut who is participating in the current efforts to release the foreign hostages held in Lebanon has disclosed that much progress has been made with regard to resolving the issue.

The same figure pointed out that these efforts relate to two issues. The first pertains to the release of the Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and the other two British hostages, and the second to the release of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes and the U.S. hostages.

He added that the contacts regarding Waite and the other two British hostages are more intensive and urgent compared to the talks about Cordes and the U.S. hostages, which are proceeding at a slower pace. He noted that it is possible that Waite and the other British nationals might be released soon, but ruled out an imminent release for the remaining hostages "as that issue will take longer."

Concerning the price that the kidnappers are demanding in return for the hostages' freedom, sources noted that it will be a composite price. The kidnappers would receive a huge sum of money and, at the same time, some of Iran's economic, military, and political conditions would be met.

Israeli Helicopters, Gunboats Attack 2 Camps

NC2508154888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1533 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] According to an urgent report carried by AFP a short while ago, the Israeli enemy's military helicopters carried out a raid over the western side of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 1730 today and fired seven rockets at the camp. Premliminary reports do not speak of any casualties.

REUTER News Agency has reported that three Israeli gunboats cruising off the coast 40 km south of Beirut fired at least six rockets at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah Palestinian refugee camps. Eyewitnesses said black smoke is rising from the two camps.

Although preliminary reports mention no casualties, ambulances have been seen speeding toward the area.

Explosion at Ammunition Depot

NC2508191788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] A Palestinian source has explained that the target of today's Israeli helicopter raid was a Palestinian barrier at the northern entrance to 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The source said that the Israeli helicopters fired seven rockets at the barrier and that six of them exploded, wounding a Palestinian gunman. Two positions belonging to the PFLP-GC and Fatah-the Central Command were destroyed.

Some 20 minutes after the Israeli raid a very loud explosion was heard in the area. It was the result of an explosion of an ammunition depot according to Lebanese security sources in the South.

Israeli Military Movements in South Reported

NC2608073688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, the Israeli occupation forces have dispatched 20 vehicles, including 10 tanks, to the Ibil al-Saqy Valley. They also have installed three 155-mm guns in Wadi Abu Qamhah. Meanwhile, enemy vehicle convoys were seen advancing from Shaqif in the direction of Mazra'at al-Hamra'. Enemy forces are also said to have surrounded Yuhmur.

Nationalist Forces Acquire 'New Weapons'

JN2608075088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Aug (WAKH)—According to press reports in Abu Dhabi today, the Lebanese nationalist forces, particularly the Amal Movement and the PSP, have received over the past few days new weapons, including Soviet TS-52 tanks [as received] and 120-mm and 155-mm guns.

Party sources in Beirut told AL-ITTIHAD that the acquisition of these weapons by the Lebanese nationalist forces coincides with Israel's providing the Lebanese Forces with 63 tanks over the past 2 weeks following the obstruction of the presidential elections in Lebanon on 18 August.

Strike Denounces U.S.-Israeli 'Interference'

NC2608094488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] A comprehensive peaceful strike was staged in the national areas today in response to a call by the nationalist and progressive parties and forces. The strike was held to protest and denounce U.S. and Israeli interference in Lebanon's affairs and the establishment of the partitionist alliance, which is linked to the Zionist enemy, and which seeks to preclude reconciliation and to obstruct the role of the Chamber of Deputies. The strike covered areas of the South, north, mountain, West Beirut, and Al-Biqa'.

Syrians Enforcing Strike

NC2608080888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] According to a security report from Beirut's southern suburb, the Syrian occupation forces have used force to compel the owners of some stores in Burj Abu Haydar and Barbur to shut their shops in observance of the strike called by the leftist groups and political parties in West Beirut.

Amal Intercepts 4 Palestinian Arms Runners
NC2508170488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Amal Movement security organ in the Tyre area presented to journalists today four Palestinians whom the Movement detained on 17 August as they were smuggling quantities of weapons into Al-Rashidiyah camp.

The four detainees—Mahmud Salih al-Za'rurah, Muhammad Salih, Naji 'Ali Dhib, and Ahmad Khalil—admitted that they had been instructed to transport the weapons from Sidon to Al-Rashidiyah camp and gave the details of the smuggling operation.

The Amal Movement's information bureau in the South has issued a statement saying that the attempts to smuggle and stockpile weapons in the camps are only preludes to kindling a sedition.

U.S., Syrian Involvement in Elections Examined
PM2508132788 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 22 Aug 88 pp 16,17

[Khalil Matar report: "U.S.-Syrian Understanding Crossing the Forces' Bridge?!"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Over the last few days there have been important developments relating to the organization of the Lebanese arena, especially regarding parliamentary efforts to hold the elections. The developments have centered basically on a number of influential axes:

First, U.S.-Syrian contacts and understanding. In this context U.S. envoy Richard Murphy visited both Beirut and Damascus. Well-informed sources say that these visits resulted in an agreement on the long-overdue president; but this was not declared. It was only declared that viewpoints over the "characteristics of the required president" were close or identical.

At their meetings with both the American official and Lebanese figures the Syrians stressed the following factors as a basis for Damascus' approach to the elections:

—Putting a limit on foreign interference in the elections issue and making the Lebanese sense how serious and crucial to their country this stage is.

—Ensuring that the new president is a president of pan-Arabism, not a sectarian one. He must not provoke any party. [passage omitted]

—One of the new president's slogans must be to work toward liberating Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

—Current political alliances and conditions in Lebanon must remain as they are until the new president is elected; they will then be assessed.

But the Syrians were delighted with the language which the U.S. envoy used in Damascus. Informed sources say that Murphy said something implying that "the U.S. Administration has placed its full confidence in the Syrian role in the elections"—which the Lebanese relying on Washington considered "a diplomatic stand which is more lenient than necessary."

The Americans and the Syrians used to put the ball in each other's court to embarrass one another, but now the option is one of understanding and mutual respect for the Syrian role in Lebanon.

Second, the Lebanese Forces felt that their role in U.S.-Syrian talks was weak and that agreements between the two sides passed them by and indeed could harm their existence.

The Lebanese Forces attribute their rejection of several presidential candidates to numerous factors. But the candidates ultimately agree on "the need to include the Lebanese Forces in security arrangements in Lebanon in view of their existence as an effective force." But it is still unclear whether the United States will accept this in view of its appeasement toward Damascus. But Washington has no objection to "keeping the Forces in check" for better regional conditions. [passage omitted]

Third, although President Amin al-Jumayyil's position remains semi-personal with regard to the main players in the Lebanese election game (Washington and Syria), his position on the policy of the new president has always obstructed any names put forward. President Amin al-Jumayyil has worked hard to return the actual, if not the practical, presidency to the Phalangist Party, to which he belongs and which his father established. He also wants to expand his Presidency so that the Maronite voice will become the main, if not the only, voice in the Lebanese political arena. That is why Amin al-Jumayyil is now trying to prepare the arena for himself.

And for Al-Jumayyil to achieve his objective he must adopt a clear stand toward the Forces, as he is confused as to whether to accept their existence provided that they become a military limb for him—something the Forces will find difficult to accept because they consider themselves a political force as well—or to unwillingly agree on it being hit, thus making it easy for the Lebanese Army and its commander, presidential candidate General [Michel] 'Awn, to rule Lebanon without the main militias. It is clear that Al-Jumayyil will not adopt a stand before Washington makes its final decision on whether to keep the Forces or bank on a president of internal and regional accord. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad Receives Islamic Group Leader

JN2508192788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received Fathi Yakan, head of the Islamic Group [Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] in Lebanon. Discussion revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Ahmar, Lebanon's Junblatt Hold Talks

JN2508174588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at noon today PSP leader Walid Junblatt who was accompanied by brothers Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy PSP leader; Sulayman Nasr, assistant secretary of the party; Dr Khalil Ahmad Khalil, Akram Shu'yb, Dawud Hamid, and Hisham Nasir al-Din, PSP Political Bureau members.

The talks dealt with developments in the Lebanese arena in light of the escalation being pursued by the isolationist forces in the Lebanese arena with the support of imperialism and Israel. The talks also revolved around the conspiratorial role played by the regime and the Army command in obstructing the elections and implementing the schemes of the imperialist and Zionist forces which seek to keep Lebanon disunited and neutralize its national and Arab role in serving the Arab nation's causes.

The conferees stressed the basic role being played by the nationalist Lebanese parties, forces, and figures in the national reconciliation process and also in confronting the hostile schemes in both the Lebanese and Arab arenas.

Comrade al-Ahmar said: The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolution in the Syrian Arab Republic under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad continues to adhere to its principled stand in support of the nationalist Lebanese forces in their struggle to overcome the obstacles and hindrances and also to make Lebanon liberated and united—a country in which justice would prevail and which would also be governed by a democratic Arab regime ruling in favor of all the Lebanese.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PSP. They also discussed the executive measures pertaining to bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Further on Talks

NC2508172988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpts] As part of the effort to coordinate stands, PSP leader Walid Junblatt has led a delegation representing the party's political bureau to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Junblatt has met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and they discussed relations between the two parties on the various levels, particularly in this current situation which calls for further coordination between the pan-Arab and progressive powers.

The talks held today helped strengthen solidarity and the joint struggle. Views were identical on the need to unify Arab and nationalist efforts during this critical stage—that is witnessing an American attack against Arab steadfastness in Lebanon and against Syria's pan-Arab role.

The two parties condemned the United States' impudent intereference in Lebanese afairs, particularly its attempts to act as a guardian for the Lebanese presidential elections, to impede them in collaboration with Lebanese isolationist powers, and to hinder the march toward reconciliation. The two sides also agreed to continue their regular meetings and to resume coordination, particularly in the fields of culture, media, and popular organizations. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Receives Iraqi Kurdish Delegation

JN2508130388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a delegation representing the parties of the Iraqi Kurdish Front. The delegation comprised Karim Ahmad, Iraqi Communist Party's Political Bureau member; Dr Muhammad 'Uthman, representative of the Socialist Party of Kurdistan; Dr (Khasru), representative of the Kurdistan National Union; and 'Izz al-Din Barwari and Ghazi Zabari, from the KDP.

During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar headed a briefing on the practices of the Iraqi regime against the sons of the Iraqi people in northern Iraq, where Saddam Husayn, the executioner of Iraq, continues his war against the Kurdish villages, destroying them and continuing to use chemical weapons against defenseless citizens.

Brother representatives of the front stressed their determination to resist the policy of the lowly regime in Iraq, to expose its methods, and to continue the struggle—together with all the sons of the Iraqi people and their nationalist forces—to overthrow this regime and save Iraq from the tragedies and pain it caused, so that Iraq may restore its national and pan-Arab role under a nationalist democratic rule that maintains the unity and independence of Iraq and secures autonomy for Kurdistan in Iraq.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the Ba'th Party's condemnation of the Iraqi regime's practices and methods against Iraqi citizens in northern Iraq and of the regime's dissipation of the Iraqi people's resources. He also condemned the Iraqi regime for obstructing Iraq's pan-Arab role—by removing it from the field of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, and

placing it in subordination to imperialism, together with the Camp David regime in Egypt and the symbol of capitulation—to implement the roles assigned to it by imperialism.

He stressed the importance of consolidating the cohesion of Iraqi national and pan-Arab forces to support the Iraqi people and their struggling forces to save Iraq from the evils caused by this agent regime, so that Iraq may restore its pan-arab role in confronting the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces in the region.

Commentaries Focus on Situation in Lebanon

Elections Seen as 'Last Test'

PM2508141988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 88 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Gulf Guns Fall Silent and Syria Concentrates on Lebanon"]

[Text] As the Gulf war ends, Syria seems to be concentrating both patiently and persistently on giving priority to the Lebanese crisis, especially regarding the election of a new president for the republic. [passage omitted]

That is why Syria puts the Lebanese issue before anything else because in Lebanon there is either honor or humiliation. Damascus seems determined not to fail the major, and probably last, test. Although all signs indicate that there is understanding between Damascus and Washington over the Lebanese issue, Syria's backing for former President Sulayman Franjiyah has clouded Syrian-U.S. relations.

Syria's friends in Lebanon believe it is likely that Washington will not persist in backing President Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Forces. This is because any victory for these will be interpreted at the Lebanese level as a victory for the camp opposed to Syrian policy in Lebanon, and in this case Iraq would be the only beneficiary.

As the United States will not now allow Iraq to exploit its victory in the war at the Arab level, Syria's friends are banking on an imminent U.S. return to balance, moderation, and understanding with Damascus regarding a candidate committed to a settlement before it is too late. [passage omitted]

It was reported that during his recent visit to Damascus, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati felt no hesitation in requesting the Syrian president to pay the debts accumulated because of the quantities of oil Syria has received from Iran over the past 5 years. [passage omitted]

At the economic level, Syria's position seems to be sensitive, if not serious. True, Damascus is in debt and tightening its belt, but its debts are not the result of unsuccessful economic trials, but rather the intensive investment in war potential. Strategic parity, whose banner Syria has been raising for some time, will help Syria both in peace and war. In peace it will strengthen Syria's military position. And in war it will protect Syria from the danger of Israel aggression.

Those observing the Syrian political scene from outside believe that there is something behind the planned Syrian silence. And they do not rule out the possibility that Damascus is busy preparing for a shock attack in the Golan in a dramatic attempt to liberate it, or, if this proved difficult, to reimpose the Golan issue on the world.

Although Syria will not start the war, it will be anxious to exploit any Israeli aggression in order to implement its military plan with the force and escalation required.

Damascus will probably choose to reply to Israel with every force to restore cohesion with the allies of the past and extend bridges once again throughout the Arab world.

Paper on 'Zionist Peril'

JN2608072588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese People and Their Nationalist Forces Have the Initiative," AL-THAWRAH says:

The Lebanese Forces gangs have demonstrated that their concern is to implement the role that Israel has set for them and that the last thing they think about is the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese or the attainment of any step that could lead to accord or serve as a beginning to extricate Lebanon from its dilemma.

This once again highlights the fact that the peril threatening Lebanon and its Arab affiliation and unity is the Zionist peril and the tattered tools Israel uses to carry out its schemes of Zionizing Lebanon, dividing it, destroying it, and killing its sons.

AL-THAWRAH adds: With their militant experience and Syria's support and assistance, the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces are capable of confronting and foiling the new conspiracy. The people who foiled the 17 May agreement, expelled the NATO and U.S. forces from Beirut, and repulsed the Zionist occupation from most Lebanese territory will certainly pursue their staunch and resolute strugggle with high efficiency and a determination to foil the new conspiracy, topple its tools, and immunize Lebanon against its perils.

All indications on the ground confirm that the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces have the initiative and that their nationalist struggle will inevitably attain its objectives of national accord, liberation, and the defeat of the imperialist and Zionist conspiracy and the petty agents who revolve in its orbit.

'Tripartite' Plot Viewed

JN2508090588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Under the headline "The Lebanese People Will Foil the Conspiracy", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: The nationalist and progressive Lebanese forces have not spared any effort or capability to render the presidential elections a success. These forces set as their major objective the creation of an atmosphere that will help Lebanon move to a new phase in which all forces will agree on specific, clear principles. This aims to remove Lebanon from its ordeal and maintain a free, independent Lebanon which has Arab affiliation and identity.

However, the forces harmed by the salvation of Lebanon and its restoration to normal life have quickly converged as part of the U.S.-Zionist scheme. Moreover, the criminal aggravation of the situation has begun—exploitation of the direct and public financial and military aid provided by some agent Arab circles—led by the Iraqi regime. These forces frankly announced their intention to obstruct and torpedo all efforts to save Lebanon. These forces unequivocally affirmed their connection with the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy designed to cause further fighting in Lebanon and impose partition as a fait accompli in Lebanon.

Al-BA'TH adds: Last week's events and developments in Lebanon revealed all cards and removed all guises worn by the triangle of conspiracy in Lebanon which is protected by the outside triangle of conspiracy composed of the United States, Israel, and reactionary Arab parties. This means any genuine attempt at salvation and at the attainment of national accord will remain harmful to both triangles. These two triangles are aware that their presence and its continuity are linked to the continuation of the crisis and the continued suffering of the Lebanese people.

It has become clear to everyone that salvation requires radical solutions and that all the Lebanese groups have been convinced that their salvation will only be brought about through concerted efforts and through the exploitation of all their capabilities to confront and defeat the parties to the tripartite conspiracy, depending mainly on Syria. Syria has done and continues to do its best to provide common factors on which all the Lebanese will agree, namely, Lebanon's unity, security, stability, and Arab affiliation.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH explains that the program declared by the nationalist and progressive Lebanese forces the day before yesterday is the first step to achieve this objective. This is because the program expresses the goals and aspiration of all the Lebanese people.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Bamian City

BK2508151088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP)—Afghan resistance sources on Thursday said rebels have captured the provincial capital of Bamian after a month-long siege, helping them establish control over all of Bamian Province.

Independent confirmation of city's fall to the rebels was not available from diplomatic sources, who said that fighting has been heavy in the area for the past few weeks.

Resistance sources, quoting a wireless message from the region's guerrilla commander, said the city, about 150 kilometers northwest of the national capital of Kabul, fell to mujahidin on Sunday.

"A large number of soldiers, KHAD (secret police) agents and Communist Party members were killed in more than 30 days of fighting," they said. They did not give exact casualty figures.

The sources said the attack was planned by five major resistance groups and resulted in the seizure of thousands of light and heavy weapons, ammunition, and a large quantity of food and clothing.

Hours before the fall of Bamian, many government officials established contact with rebel commanders, they said, adding that: "Several officers defected to mujahidin."

Soviet planes have bombarded guerrilla positions around the city twice since then but so far the rebels have not retreated, they said. The resistance had expected more Afghan Government air raids to recapture the city, they said.

Rebels have seized the provincial capitals of Kowt-e 'Ashrow, Konduz and Taleqan since Soviet troops began pulling out of Afghanistan under the Geneva accord signed April 14.

They lost control of Konduz and Kowt-e 'Ashrow after bombing raids by Soviet and Afghan Government forces, but remained in the Takhar capital of Taleqan, the diplomats said.

Diplomats said the rebels gained control of Taleqan's air base, which apparently made its recapture difficult.

Bamian was vacated by the Soviets last month as they completed the first phase of withdrawing half of their estimated 115,000 troops by mid-August.

AFP: Mujahidin Continue To Receive Weapons

BK2508114488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1126 GMT 25 Aug 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP)—A large quantity of sophisticated weapons including anti-aircraft Stinger and Blowpipe missiles and anti-tank Milans continue to arrive at rebel bases around Kabul, resistance sources here said Thursday.

Western travelers also said they recently saw caravans of mules carrying containers filled with the U.S.-made Stingers, British-made Blowpipes and Franco-German Milans only aout 30 kilometers south of Kabul.

The new Blowpipes, which arrived in boxes bearing the inscription "NATO stock" are being used in the Paghman region, northwest of Kabul, one source said.

The missile is highly efficient when fired against low-altitude aircraft, according to an expert, which should create problems for Afghan fighter-bombers. For the past few months they have been flying in low to avoid the Stinger missiles, which are not as efficient at low level.

Soviet-made MI-24 helicopter gunships have also been homing in on target at altitudes of only about 20 meters to avoid the Stingers, being hit instead by rebel fire from anti-aircraft guns and RPG-7 rocket launchers.

The rebels have been using the wire-guided Milans for months and recently as close as only a dozen kilometers from Kabul.

The rebels are using the Milans with efficiency not only against tanks and armored vehicles, but also against Afghan Army blockhouses and other fortified positions, reliable sources said.

The resistance also has heavy mortars from Spain and 107mm and 122mm rockets from China.

The rebels use anti-tank rockets with a range of more than 30 kilometers to fire on Kabul, but can only spray the city with them and have trouble homing in on precise military objectives, a specialist said.

Dozens of the long-distance rockets fall on Kabul every week, causing civilian and military victims.

The mujahidin have stepped up pressure on the capital since the beginning of August and Soviet troops have been forced to intervene from the north and northeast to help, diplomats here said.

Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the legendary "Lion of the Panjshir" and military leader of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami group, is currently training 10,000 to 12,000 men in the valley northeast of Kabul, and many experts agree that he plans to march on the capital early next year.

Diplomats say he has already received a large quantity of materiel.

Between 50,000 and 57,000 Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan by August 15, according to Western estimates.

The Geneva peace accords signed in April between the Soviet-backed Kabul government and pro-rebel Pakistan, and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington, call for the withdrawal by February 15, 1989, of all Soviet forces in Afghanistan, which Moscow says number 100,000.

'Criminal Extremists' Shell Kabul City
LD2508163988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] This morning criminal extremists once again used heavy weapons to shell residential regions in Kabul city. A number of our citizens were martyred or injured.

According to a report from the BIA military section the residential areas of Kabul city's 9th and 10th Wards became the target of four rockets fired by the extremists around 0830 this morning. One rocket hit a house belonging to Zia'uddin located in Qal'a-i Wakil. As a result two persons, Tajwar, daughter of 'Abdul Qodus, and Zalmay, son of Malang, were martyred. Two other persons were injured.

Another rocket hit the (Macrorayon 3) residential area attached to Ward 9. Two of our compatriots were injured, 'Abdul Jamil, son of 'Abdul Jalil, the driver at an electric power department, and Gulzai, daughter of Muhammad Akbar, a 5-year-old girl. Two other rockets hit the Qala-i Musa area of Ward 10. One motor vehicle was seriously damaged.

'Extremists' in Farah Province 'Crushed'
LD2508195088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] An armed extremist group which was disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of Bala Boluk District, Farah Province, was crushed yesterday.

According to a BIA report, as a result of a combat operation by the Armed Forces and carried out with the cooperation of the inhabitants of Bala Boluk District, eight of the extremists were killed and another five seriously injured.

'Extremists' Killed in Internecine Fighting
LD2508200088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Bloody clashes recently took place between extremist groups attached to the Gulbuddin band in the area of Nerkh Subdistrict, Vardak Province. A total of eight men from both sides were killed.

As a result of other recent clashes between groups of criminal extremists in the environs of Tagab District, Kapisa Province, 2 men were killed and 12 wounded.

According to another report, bloody clashes took place between the extremists attached to the Gulbuddin band in an area of Alingar District, Laghman Province. As a result (Ahmadullah), deputy commander of the group and another person, (Gulroz), were killed, and several others were seriously wounded.

Mujahidin 'Control' Takhar HQ, Qal'eh District
BK2508161088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Talukan, the headquarters of Takhar Province, is under complete control of the mujahidin. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that the mujahidin have gained control over Arghandab near Qandahar town after heavy pressure for the last 2 months.

According to another report by the agency, the mujahidin have also achieved success in the Yangi Qal'eh District near the Soviet border. The mujahidin carried out a surprise attack on the central region of the district and forced the Kabul troops to lay down their arms.

Meanwhile, it has also been learned that general frustration prevails among Afghan Air Force officers because they are not trusted. Similar feelings has also been noted in the Armed Forces of Najibullah and they are abandoning their barracks and joining the mujahidin.

Commentary Calls U.S. Accusations 'Unfounded'
LD2508205188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A few days ago the U.S. Department of State, in a self-fabricated report, named the Republic of Afghanistan as the source behind the intensification of international terrorism last year. This accusation is not only surprising but is also ludicrous. A brief look into the history of international terrorism clearly shows that the United States is the birthplace of international terrorism and the training center of international terrorists.

For example, everyone knows that Patrice Lumumba, the great African leader, and Allende, the favorite leader of the Chilean people, were killed by CIA terrorists. The

former director of CIA spies, in a 3-hour documentary film entitled "The Company Dismissed" [title as heard], clearly confesses that CIA conspiracies were directed against Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader.

The unforgettable American crimes in Vietnam and the slaughter of that country's people; the shameful occupation of the small country of Grenada, the killing of its peaceloving and innocent people and the elimination of its true leaders; the arming and incitement of contra terrorists against the people of Nicaragua; and, most infamous of all, the arming and incitement of the extreme terrorists against the Republic of Afghanistan, who have launched thousands of U.S.-made missiles, including the most modern Stinger missile, which have killed thousands of innocent children and women, are undeniable facts of international terrorism organized from the Pentagon, the [words indistinct] heart of the United States.

Why does the United States accuse Afghanistan of international terrorism? The simple and obvious answer is that, for the ideological reasons, the United States is trying to defame the revolutionary leaders of progressive movements and thwart efforts for peace and progress in every part of the world by labeling as international terrorism any moves for peace, progress, and prosperity, and any moves against oppression, war, and [word indistinct].

The Republic of Afghanistan, with the high principles it observes in its domestic and foreign policies aimed toward peace, security, political stability, coexistence, noninterference in other's internal affairs, and the search to establish fraternal and friendly relations with all countries in the world, strongly condemns international terrorism and fights against it along with all peaceful and progressive forces.

Therefore, the unfounded and false report by the United States Department of State is simply an absurdity. The publicity given by the mass media to this unfounded report is in itself a clear example of the disinformation campaign against the Republic of Afghanistan and constitutes a main part of the [words indistinct] international terrorist system.

Najibullah Receives Space Flight Delegation

LD2508193988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this afternoon received in the presidential palace the high-ranking Afghanistan delegation to the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight. In the presence of Esteemed Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, the communications minister and head of the Afghan Govenment delegation, Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah addressed the delegation:

Esteemed Watanjar and esteemed friends. You are about to embark on a highly important and responsible task of great interest to the people of Afghanistan, a supreme duty. You will represent our heroic people in Moscow and Baykonur during the launching of a spacecraft with an Afghan-Soviet crew. I am confident you will accomplish this mission in the best manner.

Esteemed Najibullah also gave specific instructions and guidance regarding the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight which enjoys great historic importance for our country and people. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Beijing

For Beijing XINHUA and RENMIN RIBAO reportage on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury's visit to Beijing and his talks with Chinese leaders and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 August China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

India

Defense Minister Comments on Pakistan, Siachen

BK2508160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The next round of secretary level talks between India and Pakistan will be held shortly in New Delhi to sort out the Siachen issue. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, at a news conference in Jammu today.

Answering a question, he said there are no reports of any tension on the border after the death of President Ziaul Haq.

About the light combat plane project, Mr Pant said there is no extraordinary delay in its execution. He said some delay is likely to occur in the manufacture of a new generation of fighter planes incorporating latest technology.

In reply to another question on the relationship with China, the defense minister said if the general climate and understanding between the two countries improve, solving of a border question and bilateral cooperation can follow.

Curfew Reimposed in Srinagar Area; 36 Arrested

BK2508162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In Srinagar, curfew has been reimposed from Machali Mohalla to Sri Bhatt in Havalsura area after an incident of stonethrowing. According to an official spokesman, the curfew has been lifted from the rest of city where the situation is peaceful.

The spokesman said 36 persons have been arrested so far. According to an agency report, 35 persons were injured in clashes between rival groups.

Our Srinagar correspondent says the situation in most parts of the city is near normal. In Civil Lines area, shops, business establishments and government offices today functioned normally.

Meanwhile, the divisional commissioner of Kashmir, Mohammad Shafi Pandit, denied reports that five foreign tourists were injured in recent incidents in and around Srinagar city. He said all tourists now holidaying in Kashmir are safe.

West Bengal Left Front Disrupts Tranportation

BK2508091288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In West Bengal, train services have been seriously dislocated following the 8-hour rail rokho [blockade of trains] agitation by the ruling Left Front in support of the 5-point charter of demands. The demands include immediate clearance of Haldia Petrochemicals and Bakreswar Thermal Power projects.

Coinciding with the rail rokho agitation, the Youth Congress-I has called for a road block in the state in protest against what it called the Left Front government's misrule has disrupted road traffic. [sentence as heard] However, state transport and tram services were running normally.

Congress-I, CPI-M Clash

BK2508154888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Several Congress-I workers, including Miss Mamata Banerjee, MP, were injured in clashes with CPI-M in Calcutta today over their rashta rokho [road blockade] agitation in the state. The Youth Congress-I gave the call for agitation to counter the rail rokho agitation by the ruling Left Front. Over 2,000 Congress-I workers were arrested from different parts of Calcutta, north and south 24 Paraganas and Howrah Districts.

'Terrorists' Arrested in Maharashtra

BK2508125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were gunned down by terrorists last night. In a separate incident, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in Amritsar District today. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the killed terrorists.

The Patiala police have arrested seven terrorists and their harborers at two different places.

In Maharashtra, three terrorists wanted by Punjab police have been arrested by Nasik police. One of them carried a reward of 50,000 rupees on his head. AIR's Nasik correspondent reports that their arrest followed a tip-off by another terrorist arrested in Nasik a few days ago.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Amritsar, Gurdaspur

BK2608035588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Terrorists shot dead four persons in separate incidents in Punjab last night, while security forces arrested two terrorists following encounters.

In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down three persons outside village (Ahluwal) and the police recovered a bullet ridden body near village (Mahish Bogha) in Gurdaspur District. Security forces arrested two terrorists after a brief encounter in the same district. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from the terrorists who have been identified as Balwinder Singh and Sukhvinder Singh.

Meanwhile, some terrorists kidnapped a police constable and a home guard jawan [soldier] from the (Bofara) railway station in Amritsar District yesterday afternoon.

Iran

Reportage on Geneva Peace Talks With Iraq

Velayati, UN Chief Talk

LD2508141388 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva Aug. 25, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the U.N. European Headquarters here Thursday afternoon.

Among the topics discussed at the one and half an hour meeting were tripartite talks between Iran, Iraq and the U.N. chief and ways of implementing the Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the nearly eight year old Iraqi-imposed war.

Earlier on Thursday, Perez de Cuellar met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. No reports on 'Aziz-Perez de Cuellar talks have been released yet.

The first round of tripartite talks between the U.N. secretary-general and Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers is to start here at 17:00 hours Tehran time (13:30 GMT).

Velayati's talks with the U.N. chief lasted half an hour longer than the scheduled time. An informed source here attributed the prolongation of Velayati-Perez de Cuellar talks to obstacles created by 'Aziz during his meeting with the U.N. chief this morning.

The source believed that Iraq's claims to the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) was the main topic discussed by the Iraqi delegation and the U.N. secretary-general.

'Aziz, UN Chief Meet

LD2508145088 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—The Iraqi delegation led by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Perez de Cuellar here earlier today in the first round of the peace talks aimed at implementing the Security Council Resolution 598.

Although no precise information on the composition of the Iraqi delegation was immediately available it was said that Iraq's U.N. Ambassador 'Ismat Kittani and a number of Foreign Ministry officials were present at the meeting.

When 'Aziz left the room at 12:05 hours local time (13:35 Tehran time) he declined to make any comment to a large group of reporters waiting outside.

Upon his arrival here Wednesday, the Iraqi foreign minister had announced he would discuss ways of implementing U.N. Resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's time-table plan during the peace talks.

Informed sources at the U.N. believe that if the first round of talks between the U.N. chief and the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers emerge successful Perez de Cuellar would announce the date of withdrawal of troops behind internationally-recognized border within the next 48 hours.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived here Thursday morning at the head of a high ranking delegation.

Velayati, 'Aziz Begin Talks

LD2508142688 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz started the first round of face-to-face talks under the auspices of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at 17:25 Tehran time today.

The tripartite talks will discuss ways of implementing U.N. Resolution 598 calling for an end to the almost 8 year old Iraqi-imposed war.

At 15:35 Javier Perez de Cuellar accompanied by 5 U.N. aides walked into the council chamber of the Palace of Nations, which once housed the pre-World War 2 League of Nations. Perez de Cuellar and his aides took their seats at the triangular table.

Five minutes later the Iranian and Iraqi delegations led by their foreign ministers simultaneously entered the conference hall from two opposite doors.

"Ali Akbar Velayati and his entourage of 12 after exchanging formal greetings with the U.N. chief settled down in their seats at the triangular table, while facing them sat Tariq Yohanna 'Aziz and 14 other Iraqi officials.

The stocky bespectacled 'Aziz looked embarrassed and faced the cameras rather nervously chewing his cigar all the time, while at the other end the suave bearded Velayati with a smile on his face seemed serenely calm and composed.

As is evident from the triangular shape of the table, the Iranian and Iraqi delegations will not talk directly to each other but through the U.N. chief. The veteran Peruvian statesman largely deserves credit for bringing the two sides to the negotiating table.

Perez de Cuellar is accompanied by Giandomenico Picco and Ralph Zacklin from the Executive Affairs Office of the Secretary General's Bureau, Timothy K. Dibuma military adviser, Felix Dawns Thomas in charge of special political affairs, and J. Paul Kavangh second officer of the Executive Affairs Office.

The Iranian team besides Foreign Minister Velayati includes Hasan Habibi (justice minister), Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani (deputy foreign minister), 'Ali Shams Ardakani (F.M. adviser), Hasan Ruhani (dy to acting commander-in-chief), Sirus Naseri (envoy at Geneva), Javad Zarif (dy to Iran's U.N. envoy), Morteza Sarmadi (F.M. spokesman).

'Ismat Kittani and 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari the Iraqi ambassador to the U.N. and U.S. respectively could be seen among 'Aziz's team of assistants.

Ten minutes later the huge crowd of about 200 reporters was politely shown the exit door, indicating that the open ended peace talks were about to start.

The U.N. chief's spokesman is to address a press conference tonight in Geneva but it is not yet known whether Perez de Cuellar or the Iranian and Iraqi foreign minister will meet the reporters or not.

The tripartite talks are simultaneously translated into Persian, Arabic and English for the convenience of the parties involved and some important parts of the negotiations are published in writing and given to the delegates.

An informed source at the UN's European HQS told IRNA that this evening's talks were solely aimed at becoming informed of the latest attitudes of the two countries on Security Council Resolution 598 and determining the peace talks agenda.

According to other sources, the triangular shape of the table was determined by the Iranian delegation while the Iraqis had insisted the table be rectangular-shaped so that the two sides could directly face each other.

UN Spokesman Comments

LD2508180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 25 Aug 88

["Iran-Iraq Peace Talks Proceeding Smoothly, Says U.N. Spokesman"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—As face-to-face talks between Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers continued behind closed doors at the U.N. headquarters here today, U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani told reporters that so far the talks enjoy normal trend and the first round may continue until next Sunday.

However Giuliani declined to comment on the contents of the talks.

In reply to a question by IRNA the U.N. spokesman implicitly confirmed that members of the two delegations may have to hold direct talks in some cases.

The spokesman said in case the talks for implementation of the Security Council resolution are prolonged, the secretary general because of his other commitments may ask someone else with an impartial reputation to replace him at the triangular table in Geneva.

Giuliani refused to disclose any names but hinted the substitute is a political heavyweight enjoying international credibility.

Sources at the U.N. HQS here say that the person concerned must be from Switzerland or Sweden or Austria.

Iranian and Iraqi delegates have not met reporters yet and it is not known whether this has been coordinated in advance.

Delegations Separate

LD2508191088 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—Iranian and Iraqi delegations which started peace talks at the U.N. European office here at 17:25 hours Tehran time today went into separate rooms at 19:30 hours to continue mutual consultation with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The U.N. chief's spokesman Francois Guiliani said the temporary halt to the first round of tripartite negotiations was an ordinary issue and should not be interpreted as a negative sign. The spokesman said he was unaware of the contents of the closed door talks at the triangular table under the chairmanship of the U.N. secretary-general and noted negotiations are likely to continue until a tripartite agreement is worked out.

There was no reliable information on topics discussed today between Iranian and Iraqi delegations led by their foreign ministers or the possible outcome of the meet.

He made it clear that both countries agreed to the U.N. chief's implementation plan to enforce all articles of Security Council Resolution 598.

25 Aug Talks Viewed

LD2508235088 Tehran IRNA in English 2303 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 26, OANA-IRNA—The Iranian delegation to the U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Geneva Thursday underlined the need for speedy implementation of all particles of the Security Council Resolution 598 including troop withdrawal to the internationally-recognized borders.

In the first round of the negotiations at the U.N.'s European headquarters which lasted 5 ½ hours, each side outlined its attitudes with Iran reiterating its readiness to accept the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan.

The Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also underscored the necessity for Iraq to practically show its good intention for enforcement of Resolution 598.

The tripartite talks between the U.N. secretary-general and Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers will resume tomorrow.

Report on First Round

NC2608053688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Telephone report by an unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] The 6-hour first round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq under the supervision of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar ended last night. The talks are to resume at 1200 Tehran time [0830 GMT] today.

After 2 hours of discussions behind closed doors in the Francisco de Vittoria Hall last night, the talks continued separately between Iran's foreign minister and Perez de Cuellar and between the Iraqi foreign minister and the UN secretary general.

Previous agreements reached in New York and Geneva between the UN secretary general and the two countries' foreign ministers formed the basis of last night's talks. In view of the contents of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the current discussions accord special priority to a timetable for the implementation of the resolution's contents and especially to the plan for the withdrawal of the forces of both sides behind international borders.

The UN secretary general thanked the two countries last night for their belief that a just and honorable peace can be ensured. He expressed appreciation of the process of the

talks so far and expressed hopes that this process will continue in the same way. He pointed to his efforts as a complement to the cease-fire and to the withdrawal of forces.

Meanwhile, during last night's talks, our foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, thanked the UN secretary general and his colleagues for their current efforts. He announced the Islamic Republic's readiness for talks on the basis of the resolution and the UN secretary general's plan for implementation.

He expressed the view that the continuation of the cease-fire and the implementation of the other steps proposed for the attainment of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace require the practical goodwill of both sides.

Our foreign minister referred to the commencement of the war by Iraq on 22 September 1980 and expressed the hope that the impartial committee which will determine who began the war on the basis of Article 6 of the resolution will carry out its duties on the basis of justice.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva.

Second Round Begins

LD2608084788 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26. IRNA—The second round of face-to-face talks between Iran and Iraq started at the U.N. European Headquarters here at 10:30 hours local time (12:00 Tehran time) under the auspices of U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Official sources close to the U.N. and Iranian and Iraqi delegations did not give any explanations on the axis of the second round of the peace talks. The Iranian delegation entered the conference hall at 10:40 local time without Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Ten minutes later the Iraqi delegation arrived. Velayati entered the hall at 11:25 hours and the reason for his delay was not immediately known.

The first round of the tripartite peace talks between the U.N. secretary-general and Iranian and Iraqi delegations started here at 17:25 hours Tehran time Thursday and lasted for two hours.

After the tripartite talks, the Iranian and Iraqi delegations went into talks in separate rooms and continued mutual talks with the U.N. chief behind closed doors for about four hours.

Official sources at the U.N., commenting on yesterday's peace talks, only said the talks were serious and good and hoped to end the first stage by Monday if no problem emerged.

Talks 'Very Serious'

LD2608085388 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—The U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar reiterated at the U.N. headquarters here today that the talks between Iran and Iraq are very serious. He added that the conflict between Iran and Iraq is deeply-rooted and that the problem cannot be solved in one afternoon.

Perez de Cuellar who was preparing to sit with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq for the second day of the face-to-face peace talks, told reporters that he is trying to maintain the United Nations point of view and will try to work out with the parties the full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598. He said he is sure the two parties are sincere in their resolve to solve the problem.

The U.N. chief said he would welcome any contributions by other countries on the conditions that the two parties and the Security Council too would agree.

Kurdish Leader Appeals

LD2508174188 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—Head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party Mas'ud Barzani in a statement addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Wednesday warned him against continuation of Iraqi Army's crimes against the country's Kurdish population.

Barzani expressed hope that the cease-fire which went into effect in the Iraq-Iran war on Aug. 20, would put an end to Iraqi attacks on Kurdish populated areas in northern Iraq.

He also appealed to other international bodies to take measures to stop Baghdad's harassment of Iraqi Kurds. He said in Iraqi attacks including chemical bombardment of Kurdish areas hundreds of Kurds have been injured and hundreds of others driven out of their homes and forced to settle on Iraq-Turkey border strip.

Supporting the UN-brokered cease-fire, Barzani expressed hope that the sufferings of Iraqi Kurds and their problems would be taken into account in the current efforts of the U.N. chief.

The KDP leader stressed that Iraqi Kurds are not attached to any government and urged international bodies to campaign to preserve national and humanitarian rights of the Kurds.

Meanwhile another statement issued by a KDP spokesman here said that clashes that started between the Iraqi Army and the Kurds in Marg-e Sar and Redane Dez [placename as received] on Aug. 16 have been escalated and the Iraqi regime has launched severe attacks to crush Kurdish strongholds on Iran-Turkey border.

The statement said these attacks both aerial and chemical were repelled by the Kurds and 500 Iraqi forces were killed and 50 others captured. The second command brigade of the Iraqi Army, Brigade 68 of the Special Forces and Battalion 10 of division 33 suffered heavy losses and damage, it said.

According to the statement 54 Kurdish warriors were killed and injured in the Iraqi attacks, a number of whom afflicted by chemical weapons.

The statement called on the United Nations Iran-Iraq military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) to also monitor the attacks of the Iraqi Army against Iraqi Kurds on Iraq-Iran border areas.

Geneva Correspondent Discusses UN Resolution
LD2508152788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

["First" news report from Geneva correspondent]

[Text] In a few hours the talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, under the supervision of the UN secretary general, will begin at the European headquarters of the UN Organization in Geneva. Although the agenda for the negotiations which begin today has not yet been settled, taking note of the powers assigned to the UN secretary general by the Security Council and of the nature of Resolution No 598, which designates the UN secretary general as its implementer, the responsibility for determining the agenda will rest with Javier Perez de Cuellar.

It is predicted that his chief priority will be to set down the timetable for the implementation of the remaining clauses of Resolution No 598 and also to determine the points of differences between the two countries, under clause four of that resolution.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who arrived in Geneva this morning, announced at a gathering for foreign journalists that the aim of the Geneva talks is to assist the UN secretary general to finalize the timetable for the implementation of the clauses of Resolution No 598 in order to guarrantee a lasting and just peace in the region.

In the section concerning the provision of a timetable, questions such as withdrawal—not necessary on the basis of the time limit forecast in Resolution No 598 [as heard]; the exchange of POW's; and the start and end of the work of the committee for identifying the aggressor, will be raised and discussed. It is to be expected that the UN secretary general will, in the first instance, soon announce the dates when troop withdrawals behind recognized international borders will begin and end.

In the section concerning the specification of differences in viewpoints between Iran and Iraq in clause four of the resolution, the opinion of the UN secretary general is that, in the ongoing trend of the talks, any issue over which the two sides hold different viewpoints in all the points contained in clause four of the resolution will be incorporated in the direct talks between Iran and Iraq.

In this respect, the direct talks between the two countries will be meaningful. On the other hand, in the ongoing Geneva talks, the basis of the work to be carried out is the understanding and agreement reached by the UN secretary general in the course of his previous negotiations with the representative delegations of Iraq and Iran in New York.

Khamene'i Praises Troops in Friday Prayers Sermon
LD2608132088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] We begin our news report with the comments of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemyn Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i made at the Friday prayers in Tehran.

In his Friday sermons, the Friday imam of Tehran noted details of the epic-making life and struggles of Holy 'Ali ibn al-Husayn Imam Sajjad, peace be upon him, and the anniversary of martyrdom of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar and praised the lofty martyrs. [passage omitted]

Praising the mobilization forces, Khamene'i said: The unprecedented and extensive presence of the people at the slightest mention by the imam has resolved the political dilemma. It is the same forceful presence and harmonized and correct plannning by the corps commanders and the Armed Forces which has forced the Iraqi regime to accept the resolution. The selfless and sincere mobilization forces abound along the fronts, calling in unison that they will never leave the fronts until they receive orders to do so. In return, we have confirmed that our fighting capacity must remain at maximum strength until the completion of the peace talks.

Praising the Friday imams of the country and the various strata of the public for the speedy dispatch and presence at the battlefronts, the Friday imam of Tehran said: This combat readiness must be maintained so that the enemy will not even think about using bullying tactics and force, and so that the world will realize the Islamic Republic of Iran will never accept the rule of force.

The chairman of the Supreme Defence Council went on to praise the IRGC, the Armed Forces, and the Reconstruction Jihad for their resisting and sacred defense, and the sacrifice of their lives and wealth. Referring to the results of the war imposed by the Iraqi regime against Iran, he said: For 8 years the apparatus of Eastern and the Western arrogant powers made efforts to force the Islamic Republic of Iran into abandoning its principled positions by toppling it or weakening it.

However, their efforts were fruitless. Today, as peace reigns, everybody can see that the Islamic Republic not only has not been toppled or weakened, but that it

continues to exist with strength. The president added: Our resistance has shown that we continue to exist. Our slogan from now on will be that we will endure and will become stronger day by day.

President Khamene'i referred to the country's reconstruction after the war and said: The issue of reconstruction is not an issue that can be resolved by emotions or slogans. In this connection, such principles as large scale planning, determination of priorities, safeguarding the country's economic and cultural independence, the utilization of the people's investments, the facilities of the state sector, the provision of welfare for the meek and low income group of strata, and avoiding bureaucracy should be seriously taken into account. [passage omitted]

Musavi on Principles of International Relations

LD2508134988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on the occasion of 'Ashura; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During the early Islamic era, before the spread of Islam beyond Arabia, the prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, was sending messages to various powers of the era. He used to invite them to convert to Islam. He was establishing links. We do not wish to become isolated. We, too, wish to make links with the world. However, in establishing ties, the values and principles on which they are based should be made clear.

Our values and principles make us committed to certain points that we cannot ignore. Can we abandon support for the Muslims of the world in their liberating movements just because the superpowers make accusations against us? Do we have such a right? This is part of the principles. Can we support arrogance inside the country and abroad, when Islam says we should implement policies against arrogance policies if we wish to call ourselves Islamic?

Is it possible to share kindness and affection with arrogance at home and abroad? The imam calls upon us; look at the imam's message and go back to the Koran. Go back to His Holiness Ebrahim [Prophet Abraham], peace be upon him. A Muslim cannot, even for one moment, feel comfortable and affectionate toward the blasphemous and godless systems.

A Muslim should make himself believe—incidentally, this is a Western issue too—and should keep this holy method alive in himself, for this creates a motive and movement. This even has some social and economic results. When we lose this motive, it seems to us as if there is nothing wrong with opening the country's gates to allow anyone who wishes to come in to do so. They might bring us some economic comfort too. In the absence of this motive we become negligent with conspiracies of our enemies.

I would like to give you an example. I have repeated this example in several places during the past few days. We have a brother who is an economic affairs advisor to the government. He is an old man and has turned grey as a result of his services to Islam and the nation. He is very experienced and says: Whenever you shake hands with the foreigners, even when you are introduced to each other, be careful that your fingers are not grabbed and left in the foreigners' hands! They will take your fingers without your realizing it!

We should study our history of the past 200 years in connecton with colonialism, in our relations with Britain, the Soviet Union, Czarist Russia, and the United States. We should see how they have treated us and what their records are. Can it be possible that only after a cease-fire, the arrogant United States, which downed our passenger airliner with such harshness in the Persian Gulf, would become a supporter of our nation, the barefoot of our country, and the Islamic Revolution as an established power in the region?

No doubt their objective is to eradicate the principles and the system, and to transform this revolution, should they fail to topple this system which no doubt they would. It would be natural if they were pursuing such an objective.

But what we should do in return? In return, the greatest solution at our disposal is the affection and recognition we have inherited from the saints. The same recognition of the saints 'Ashura, Karbala', and our imam of the ummah, whom the more we strive to recognize better, the more we learn... [sentence as heard] We should let our saints tell us which countries we should support and which ones we should not. We should let them tell us about our economic policies.

When we follow His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, it is natural that we cannot support the rule of capital and capitalists and U.S.-style Islam. For the order 'Ali gives to our heart is another Islam. It is the Islam of piety and resistance, the Islam in defense of orphans and the meek of society; it is the Islam for the defense of the righteous and just.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Montazeri Confer

LD2508173288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 aUG 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, this afternoon in Qom met and conferred with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Forces Leave for Western, Southern Fronts

LD2508173088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The extensive movement of fresh, popular forces going to safeguard the western and southern borders of the Islamic homeland country continued yesterday with a large group of volunteer, popular forces departing from the cities of Behshahr, Qa'emshahr, Now Shahr, Chalus, (Kalar Dasht), Marzanabad, and (Kudur).

Economic Minister Receives Turkish Envoy

LD2508185288 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Volkan Vural met with Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani here Thursday.

In the meeting, Iravani called for expansion of economic cooperation between the two neighbouring Muslim countries within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He said the Islamic Republic was for further and more effective activities at the OIC permanent committee on commercial and economic cooperation.

In response, the Turkish ambassador, referring to the key role of the Islamic Republic in the region, said that Iran enjoying advanced industries and agruculture and rich oil reserves is of great importance to OIC and the Muslim world.

He also called for the promotion of Tehran-Ankara cooperation in trade and economic fields and for joint investments.

Tremors Shake Garmsar; No Damage Reported

LD2508165088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] This morning two tremors shook Garmsar and nearby villages once again. According to reports from IRNA and Tehran University's seismological center, these tremors—which took place at 0523 and 0714—measured 3.1 and 3.2, respectively, on the Richter scale.

The epicenters were located 100km southeast of Tehran and around Garmsar. The institute also announced that eight other mild tremors have been registered over the past 24 hours. According to reports, these tremors have caused no casualties or damage.

Correction to Larijani Discusses Relations

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Larijani Discusses Relations With U.S., Britain," published in the 23 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 65:

Column one, paragraph two, sentence two should read: ...Under these circumstances, there will be no discussions as they will be of no avail. (clearing queried words, rewording)

Same paragraph, last sentence should read: ...He emphasized that no Iranian official or politician held any discussions with American politicians because Iran believes that discussions under the current circumstances are not in the interests of the regime and believes that they should not be held in an atmosphere of hostility. He added that if the United States is truly serious in normalizing relations, then this conflicts with the policy it is currently pursuing.

By massing its fleets against Iran and by attacking the Iranian civilian airliner, it has practically entered the war. Hence, if it wants to establish relations with Iran, then it has to adopt a clear policy and change its open and clear hostile policy against the Islamic Revolution. He expressed his doubts about statements made by U.S. officials at various levels concerning their desire to normalize relations.

Brother Larijani said: These statements must be accompanied by practical initiatives. Then Iran's relations with the United States will be the same as with other countries. The United States and the Soviet Union will then be treated the same. (supplying indistinct words)

Paragraph three, from the end of sentence one should read: ...the broad lines. The United States must take a firm stand on the war and stand aloof from Iraq's aggression against Iran... (supplying indistinct words)

Pakistan

'Strong Protest' Lodged on Afghan Shelling

BK2608023388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul regime's Armed Forces fired two artillery shells last Sunday [21 August] that landed in the Landi Kotal area of Khyber Agency, killing one Pakistani. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and a strong protest was lodged with him on this unprovoked attack.

Army Chief Denies Armed Forces Seek Power

BK2508160088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Armed Forces chief, Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that our foremost duty is to protect the country and the nation, and the Pakistani Armed Forces will fulfill this responsibility. He said this while addressing Pakistani Armed Forces officers in Rawalpindi today.

Referring to the role of the Pakistani Armed Forces in the present situation, General Aslam Beg stressed that they will make every effort to assist in the maintenance of peace and order in the country in order to fulfill the promise to hold general elections on 16 November. Relations between the federal and provincial governments should be developed, cordial relations should be established between the people and their leaders, and all obstacles to the achievement of national objectives should be removed, he said.

The Armed Forces chief said that the country is passing through a most delicate period in its history, and it has placed additional responsibilities on the Armed Forces.

We have to take correct decisions through mutual consultations to achieve these objectives. Gen Beg said that the Armed Forces have no lust for power and their main concern is the country's security and integrity.

He urged officers and men to remain alert and cautious in order to enable the people live in peace. He directed the Armed Forces to avoid politics and said that the political arena is only for politicians.

Gen Mirza Aslam Beg announced that Army House, where President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the martyr, stayed for more than 10 years, will be protected as a national shrine. Earlier, prayers were offered for the souls of the martyred president and all those who died in the air crash on the 17th of this month.

Sees Indian-Soviet 'Conspiracy'

BK2608005088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1852 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Aug 25 (AFP)—The death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was the result of a conspiracy, Army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said here Thursday, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported.

General Beg referred to "threatening statements made by a spokesman of the Soviet Union and the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi," the official news agency said. He told officers after being appointed Army chief the statements from Moscow and New Delhi appeared August 13 and 15 respectively, it said.

General Ziaul Haq died along with 29 other people in a plane crash in Pakistan August 17 that defense officials say they believe was the result of sabotage.

"Our adversaries struck at a crucial juncture of our history," Gen. Beg said. It was a time when "we had started our march towards the cherished goal of democracy, an interim government was in office, renewed efforts were launched to usher an Islamic era in the country and the struggle of the Afghan brethren was about to culminate in success," APP quoted him as saying.

"The adversaries thought by such a heinous crime they could detract us from our mission and goals, but they are utterly ignorant of this nation's history and character," said Gen. Beg.

A fountainhead of power was rising in Afghanistan and its people were about to regain independence, which was a source of sustenance for the security and integrity of Pakistan.

Another source of strength was the "explicit support of the friendly countries like Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia and United States of America, who have pledged to stand by Pakistan in its hour of crisis".

Gen. Beg said the Army "had no lust for power" and "a consensus was reached to follow the constitutional path." A message had been sent to Interim President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, APP quoted him as saying.

This included the military's committment to "upholding the glory of Islam, total support to the government programmes, rule of law and justice, support to the policy on the Afghan issue and restoration of democracy in the country".

He said the services chiefs had joined the Emergency Council "for the sole reason that no one was allowed to exploit the situation to meet his nefarious designs of harming the country."

Gen. Beg said the military would continue in this role until the November 16 elections scheduled by Gen. Ziaul Haq and the setting up of an elected government.

"It will be our earnest effort to help maintain law and order in the country to see that the November 16 polls promise becomes reality," he said.

The Army chief's declaration follows rumours already denied by the government that martial law is to be enforced in Pakistan. A state of emergency was announced by Mr. Ishaq Khan hours after Gen. Ziaul Haq's death.

The late president had recently stepped up his Islamisation programme after dissolving the government of Mohammad Khan Junejo on May 29 and dissolving Parliament. He announced a caretaker government and promulgated the Shari'a Ordinance (Islamic code) in June.

Delhi Cites Beg's Remarks

BK2608032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan's new Army chief, General Aslam Beg, has said the Army has no role in the country's politics. Speaking to Army officers in Rawalpindi yesterday, General Beg made it clear that he was in favor of transfer of power to an elected government after the November elections. He said that at present the Army's role should be restricted to maintain law and order and to ensure that the November elections become a reality.

Describing the present situation as critical, General Beg said there is no room for ill planned steps. General Beg said that on the fateful day of the Bahawalpur air crash, he rushed back to Rawalpindi to consult the senior military officers on the situation. He added that a consensus was reached to follow the constitutional requirements and certain recommendations about the future policy of the government were sent to the acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The AIR special correspondent, Manohar Takru, reports from Islamabad that the hectic efforts that had been going on to forge unity among various factions of the Muslim League have now reached a crucial stage. The chief ministers of three provinces, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab, and Baluchistan, had a meeting with the former prime minister, Mr Junejo, till late in the night to hammer out a consensus on the president and other office bearers of the Pakistan Muslim League.

There are also reports about behind-the-scene moves to appoint a caretaker prime minister to head the government under the acting president till elections are held on the 16th of November.

Split in Pakistan Muslim League Reported

BK2608132488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The Pakistan Muslim League has formally split into pro-Zia and pro-Junejo factions within 10 days of President Ziaul Haq's death. Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, former governor of the North-West Frontier Province, was chosen president of the pro-Zia faction at a convention in Islamabad today.

The other faction, led by the dismissed prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, is scheduled to meet on Monday to assess the situation. The Pakistan Muslim League was the ruling party before the National Assembly was dissolved on 29 May this year.

AFP: Bhutto Warned of Assassination Attempt

BK2508150488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Karachi, Aug 25 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader and a traditional foe of President Mohammed Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash last week, has been informed of a possible assasination attempt, police and party sources said here Thursday.

Ms Bhutto, 35, who leads the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) told newsmen at her residence that she accepted police protection after the government informed her of a possible attempt on her life.

She is leaving for London early next month for a medical check-up and may remain there for the birth of her first child, expected in October, PPP sources said.

Police and party sources here said an armed guard has been posted outside her seaside villa following the threats in addition to the plainclothes agents that have guarded Ms Bhutto since she joined the opposition after her father, former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was executed in 1979.

Mr Bhutto had been overthrown by General Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash on August 17.

"I have no personal enmity with anyone and do not know who might be threatening to kill me," Ms Bhutto said. PPP sources said the threats might have come from Islamic fundamentalist supporters of Gen Ziaul Haq.

But press reports here have said the crash, which Pakistani officials believe was caused by sabotage, could have been engineered by the Al-Zulfiqar Organization led by Ms Bhutto's brother, Murtaza.

Mr Murtaza Bhutto, who is said to have formed the group to avenge his father's execution, has denied reeponsibility for the crash, which also killed the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and the head of the Pakistani Armed Forces.

Police said no restrictions had been placed on Ms Bhutto's movements and said the guard was there to guard against any threat to her life.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Kill More LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK2508135888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1200 GMT 25 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—Five LTTE terrorists were killed and eight wounded by IPKF [Indian Peace-Keeping Force] commandos in a series of battles yesterday in the jungles of Vavuniya.

A PTI despatch from Madras quoting an IPKF press release states that while three LTTE terrorists were killed and five others wounded in an hour-long clash with the IPKF at Nithikaikulam in the afternoon, two terrorists were shot dead on the Vavuniya-Mannar road.

One AK-47 rifle, ammunition and equipment were captured in the latter operation. At Kumalamunai, three terrorists were wounded.

IPKF commandos destroyed a concealed LTTE camp and captured a large quantity of supplies in the jungles of Nithikaikulam.

The terrorists were using rocket launchers, mortars and machine guns in the Nithikaikulam jungles encounter. There were no IPKF casualties, though one helicopter was damaged. [passage omitted]

State of Emergency Extended Another Month

BK2508163588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1529 GMT 25 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—The motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month was approved in parliament by a majority of 97 votes.

One hundred and seven members voted for the resolution, while the number of votes against it was 10.